Reviewer's report

Title: Serum hyaluronate as a non invasive marker of hepatic fibrosis and inflammation in chronic HBV infection

Version: 1 Date: 17 May 2005

Reviewer: Jean-Pierre P ZARSKI

Reviewer's report:

General This manuscript reports the interest of hyaluronic acid in the detection of liver fibrosis in chronic hepatitis B. However only few patients were included and not correctly separated according to liver fibrosis (F0 to F4). It is unnecessary to include decompensated cirrhosis. We don' have any informations on the comparison between HBe Ag(+) and HBe Ag (-) patients. Finally we know that hyaluronate has a lower sensitivity and specificity than Fibrotest or other markers. The comparison between these different parameters is necessary.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Reject because scientifically unsound

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No