Reviewer's report

Title: Serum hyaluronate as a Non-invasive Marker of Hepatic Fibrosis and Inflammation in HBeAg-negative Chronic Hepatitis B

Version: 4 Date: 27 July 2005

Reviewer: Thierry Poynard

Reviewer's report:

General

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

1. The box plot of hyaluronate according to each fibrosis stage must be given
2. In the discussion it must be stated that in comparison to FibroTest-ActiTest hyaluronic acid seems to have a lower sensitivity for minimal fibrosis (as in chronic hepatitis C) as well as an absence of independent assessment of both fibrosis and activity as given by FibroTest-Actitest.
3. The range price of the hyaluronic acid should be given in different countries (Iran, US, Europe).

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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)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I have a capital interest in Biopredictive the startup company of Paris University marketing FibroTest-ActiTest.