Reviewer’s report

Title: Serum procalcitonin and CRP levels in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease

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Reviewer: Hans Spangenberg

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The paper by Oruc et al. examines for the first time the procalcitonin levels in patients with NAFLD. As an additional marker they investigate CRP. Interestingly they found no correlation of procalcitonin with steatohepatitis and/or steatosis, however for CRP a statistical significant difference between healthy controls and patient with histological proven steatohepatitis/steatosis was observed.

A few comments that should be addressed by the authors prior to publication.

1. The healthy controls are not well describe. They should be added in table 1 and all makers that are addressed for the NAFLD-group should be included.
2. 47 patients with NAFLD are analysed not 50, this should be corrected.
3. How was an infection in the patients excluded? For most of the papers in patients with metabolic syndrome hs-CRP was used as a marker, why not in this study?
4. The BMI is higher in the steatosis group. Does the BMI per se influence the level of CRP?
5. In table 3 the NAFLD-group is not differentiated into steatohepatitis and steatosis. This should be adopted.

In general, the authors should rule out by multiple regression analysis that any other maker than the difference between steatosis/steatohepatitis and healthy controls is responsible for their explanation. Furthermore it should be discussed in more detail why the steatosis group has lower CRP levels than the steatohepatitis group. One would assume that inflammation in the liver triggers CRP. At last it would be interesting to see if the authors can also detect CRP and procalcitonin in their liver histologies and this finding could be correlatd with the serum levels.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests