Reviewer’s report

Title: A novel scoring system for prognostic prediction in d-galactosamine/lipopolysaccharide-induced fulminant hepatic failure BALB/c mice

Version: 1 Date: 11 September 2009

Reviewer: Justin Nguyen

Reviewer’s report:

The authors posed an important question, designed the study well, and applied sound methods to analyze the data. The data are sound. However, I do have a few questions including the ones on the limitations of the study.

1. Many institutions do not allow the use of “dead” of the study animals to be the endpoints. Would you please clarify how you define the premortum characteristics including clinical behaviors to select the surviving and dead animals in your study.

2. DSI appears to be potentially promising. However, at what time points in the clinical course of the patients with FHF would the equation be applicable? Would you predict that is there a possible time point in the course of FHF that DSI would not be effective or predictive such as if the equation is applied after 12 or 24 hours since the induction or onset of FHF? Are there any other limitations of this study?

3. I would like to see a table documenting the biochemical profile including ALT, INR, Glucose, T-bil, urea, phosphate, and b-hydroxybutyrate levels of the 2 surviving and dead groups at 6 hours after Gal-LPS induction. In the table, the Cliché and Kings’ College Hospital criteria should be included.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

declare that I have no competing interests' below