Reviewer's report

Title: Glutamine Therapy Reduces Endothelial Adhesion of Sickle Red Blood Cells to Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells

Version: 4 Date: 5 May 2005

Reviewer: Marie J. Stuart

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)

The reviewer thanks the authors for the additional tables she was provided regarding the hematologic changes in the cross-sectional and longitudinal evaluations. She assumes that in the longitudinal evaluation tables there were problems with decimal point placement in some of the columns. It is important that the reticulocyte count and hemoglobin did not change in the five patients evaluated pre and post glutamine. While she agrees that it is unnecessary to add a table with this information, she thinks it is important that a sentence be added in the results regarding the fact that hemoglobin levels and reticulocyte counts remained unchanged pre and post glutamine. The fact that the reticulocyte count remained unchanged seems, to this reviewer, somewhat incompatible with the dramatic decrease in sickle forms that the authors depict in Figures 4 and 5. Such a dramatic decrease in sickle forms should have been accompanied by changes in red cell survival that would have impacted positively the reticulocyte count. This discrepancy between the reticulocyte counts and sickle forms on peripheral smear needs to be addressed, especially in view of the addition of Figures 4 and 5 to the manuscript by the authors.

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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?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No