Reviewer's report

Title: Pathologic and hematologic studies in experimental leptospirosis in guinea pigs: thrombocytopenia, but not disseminated intravascular coagulation

Version: 1 Date: 18 July 2005

Reviewer: R Zuerner

Reviewer's report:

General

The manuscript by Yang et al describes use of a guinea pig infection model to study leptospirosis with a focus on the potential role of disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) on pathogenesis. The authors conclude that DIC does not occur in severe, fatal forms of leptospirosis, a finding that is supported by previous studies.

A few assays were completed to assess the role of DIC, but several important assays were not included in the study and should be included so the stated goal of determining whether DIC is important for leptospirosis is thoroughly addressed.

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

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

Several items need attention before publication:

The manuscript should be edited by someone fluent in English. There are many typographical errors and problems with capitalization and spacing throughout the manuscript. These items should be caught by someone more familiar with English.

The pages are not numbered and neither are the lines in the text. This made writing the review difficult.

In the abstract, the term intraabdominal was used instead of intraperitoneal.

In the second page of the abstract, the authors note detection of spiral forms in tissue, but fail to note the organ from which the tissue was obtained. The description of other observed pathological changes that follow in the abstract are also not clearly associated with a specific organ.

In the introduction, the authors begin to list the pathogenic Leptospira species, and then end the sentence with etc. As this is presented, all the pathogenic species should be listed.

At the end of the results portion of the abstract, there are apparently contradictory statements. This section first states that D-dimer and FDPs increased statistically then state that they elevated slightly. More precision is needed.
At many places throughout the manuscript, important references are not cited. Very little detail is given in certain sections of the methods that need more information.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

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

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

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests