Reviewer’s report

Title: Leptin receptor (LEPR) SNP polymorphisms in HELLP syndrome patients determined by quantitative real-time PCR and melting curve analysis.

Version: 1 Date: 30 October 2009

Reviewer: Marcelo Correia

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions
1. Some results are redundantly presented in the abstract.
2. The introduction is insufficient to set the genetic background of the study. It could be expanded to introduce known or potential polymorphisms/haplotypes related with HELLP syndrome and/or associated conditions.
3. What is the rationale for choosing the LEPR SNP polymorphisms assessed in the study?
4. Did study participants sign informed consent? If so, please write it clearly.
5. Did the authors carried out power studies to define the minimum sample size to avoid false negative overall results?
6. Real time PCR and melting curves were used to assess the polymorphisms of interest. What’s the reliability of melting curves as compared with other PCR-based genotyping? Also, the authors claim to have introduced RT-PCR and melting curves to assess LEPR SNP polymorphisms. Yet, implications of this new approach has not been discussed in depth.

Minor essential revisions:
1. Several acronyms are not defined in the text (eg. VEGF, IUGR, etc.).
2. English needs some revision.

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, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

none