Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 24 December 2009

Reviewer: Marcelo Correia

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)

I would suggest that the authors add to the manuscript the following full statement taken from the rebuttal letter: “Sample size estimation of the study was performed by using Quanto 1.2.4 (www.hydra.usc.edu) statistical program. Abate et al (Arch Med Res 40;306-310,2009) published their data on Lys109Arg LEPR polymorphism with a similar set up. Our sample size provided sufficient statistical power (>80% at Type I error rate of 0.05) to detect 21% difference in LEPR c.326A>G genotypes and 14% difference in LEPR (AG AG GG AG) haplotypes between cases and controls.

Based on our investigation there is no association with the LEPR SNP polymorphism and the development of HELLP syndrome. It is in agreement with previous study on preeclampsia using two LEPR SNP polymorphisms on same size of cases and controls (Rigo et al. Gynecol Endocrinol 2006)”.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'