Reviewer’s report

Title: Hepatocyte Growth Factor signalizes peritoneal membrane failure in peritoneal dialysis

Version: 1 Date: 21 October 2014

Reviewer: Manuel Amoedo

Reviewer’s report:

I agree with the authors about the function of peritoneal membrane being of extreme importance for the patients in this technique, which is a challenge for the entire clinic staff involved in the treatment of PD patients. The fear of Ultrafiltration failure is very stressful for all; we anticipate that each patient will have peritoneal sclerosis or worse.

We want an easy test that gives us the information about the peritoneal membrane and that could predict peritoneal sclerosis. Until now, we have nothing better than the standard PET test with recent modifications introduced by La Millia and by the authors of this manuscript.

The authors say that there exist an excellent correlation between the total ultrafiltration at 4H with 3.86% and the levels of HGF and that correlation is even stronger with the patients classified by the PET test with UFF. Nevertheless, I have some doubts about the use, in the clinic practice, of the HGF – the PET test it’s an easy test and all the persons who treat these patients are aware how to do it. I admit that in the near future this cytokine could be important in the therapeutic of prevention of peritoneal damage by the peritoneal solutions, although in the last number of PDI the group of the Prof. E. Brown published an article saying that cytokines couldn’t predict peritoneal sclerosis.

Finally, in my opinion this manuscript is well balanced with good data and should be accepted for publication. I don’t have major revisions to send to the authors.