Reviewer's report

Title: Antiglucocorticoid RU38486 reduces net protein catabolism in experimental acute renal failure

Version: 2 Date: 17 January 2005

Reviewer: Alan Bevington

Reviewer's report:

General
This modified manuscript has answered most of the points that I raised in my original review. For the sake of clarity however, I am asking for some Minor Essential Revisions.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1) Abstract. In line 2 of the Methods section of the Abstract, the word "fasted" should be inserted before "bilaterally nephrectomised" and before "sham operated" to indicate the stress that the animals have received other than nephrectomy.
2) Abstract. At the end of the first sentence of the Conclusions section of the Abstract, ".......stress-stimulated elevated corticosterone secretion" please add "arising from surgery and fasting."
3) Conclusion (at the end of the Discussion). In line 5 please insert "fasting and" before "operative stress-induced cortisol action..."
4) Tables 4 and 5. The legends for these 2 tables seem to have been transposed. It would be simple if these 2 tables were combined into one table with multiple clearly labelled columns of "P" values instead of giving the 2 sets of "P" values in separate, but otherwise identical, tables.
5) Legend to Fig 1. The perfused muscle mass is said to be between the dotted lines. Should this read " between the solid black lines"?
6) Legend to Fig 1. The wording for section B should be altered to "Recirculating perfusion system. From the oxygenator (1), wherein the medium is gassed (95% O2, 5% CO2) it is pumped (3) up via a filter (nylon mesh,............"

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
1) Leptin. In an isolated perfused hindlimb preparation, comprising mainly skeletal muscle, endogenous leptin secretion from adipocytes will probably be fairly small. I would therefore suggest that the reference to pH effects on leptin in this system (references 44 and 45) should be removed.

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