Reviewer's report

Title: What is the potential of Oligodendrocyte Progenitor Cells to successfully treat human spinal cord injury?

Version: 1 Date: 1 June 2011

Reviewer: Dimitrios Karussis

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This is a well written review, summarizing the evidence and rationale for using oligodendrocyte progenitors for spinal cord injury. The questionable impact of demyelination and of the approach to treat with cells mainly aiming to remyelination, is discussed and the pros and cons are presented. However, the whole manuscript is dealing in several points with a clinical trial which is about to begin and this is a major weakens of this review and should be changed. For instance, the whole background in the Abstract section is unacceptable and the same holds for the Introduction where it is mentioned that: “The dawn of a new era of hope approaches for patients with spinal cord injury as a revolutionary treatment heads towards the clinic. On 30th July 2010, over 18 months since their original announcement, Geron Corporation – a California-based biotechnology company – revealed that they had received the green light from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to proceed with Phase I clinical trials to treat acute spinal cord injury (SCI)” Such sentence which looks like an advertisement of a clinical trial and the company involved, should be deleted. The name of “Geron” company should be omitted from all the places that it appears including the figure.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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