Reviewer's report

Title: Serum leptin concentration and advanced gastrointestinal cancers: a case controlled study

Version: 1 Date: 7 May 2004

Reviewer: Stephen J Wigmore

Reviewer's report:

General
This study examines the relationship between leptin concentration in the sera of patients with cancer and weight loss. The authors found an association between leptin concentration and gender but no correlation between leptin concentration and weight loss.

The study is well written and there are no obvious problems with its design. The size of the study is quite small and the only variables measured are leptin and weight loss, and more information about the patients would have been interesting i.e. did they have evidence of ongoing inflammation, what was their BMI etc.

The lack of correlation between leptin and weight loss is interesting and I am uncertain why this should be. Some of the studies that have analysed leptin in cancer in relation to weight loss have done so in the context of measuring ongoing inflammation with IL-6, TNF and C-reactive protein concentrations (this was the reason for my comments above).

There are a few grammatical and language errors which although minor should be corrected as they will improve the manuscript overall. There are also some references that have not been cited which would also make a more complete story.


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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

none