Reviewer's report

Title: New evidence on the process of colonic anastomosis healing in Wistar rats

Version: 5 Date: 22 September 2010

Reviewer: Marcel Binnebösel

Reviewer's report:

The authors improved the manuscript detailed.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The methods used are not state of the art, as already suggested. The authors used H&E sections, which is a simple method to discriminate between neutrophils, leukocytes or macrophages etc.

I do understand that it would be a lot of work to perform additional IHC staining. But could you please add to the results part, which type of cells you detected in the anastomotic area. This could be very important for the academic society and would significantly upgrade the manuscript.

2. It remains still unclear by which method the intensity of alpha-sma staining was measured. Was a scoring system used (e.g. Remmele Score?) or did you measure the percentage of positive stained cells?

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Again, please do not use a comma in case of a decimal place. Please use points.

2. Please indicate the manufacturer for all products that were mentioned in the manuscript.

3. Page 6, p-values are missing (results, first section).

4. Figure 1 and 2 are not necessary.

5. Please improve legends of figure 4 to 6 and add the magnification used. Please indicate the used staining in the figure legend.

6. Page 7, line 13) Please delete one "<"

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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