Reviewer's report

Title: Enhanced Susceptibility to Infections in a Diabetic Wound Healing Model

Version: 1 Date: 24 September 2007

Reviewer: magda ulrich

Reviewer's report:

General

More information about the “diabetic state” of the animals would be desirable. As the authors have stated themselves already in the manuscript their model does have some major drawbacks. The underlying mechanism of diabetic wounds, which is probably to a large extent responsible for the poor healing capacity of these wounds, is missing. The created acute wound inflicted in these animals can not be compared with diabetic ulcers with respect to e.g. different growth factors and proteolytic enzymes.

Nevertheless it is important that the role of bacterial infection on the healing process in diabetic wounds but also in several other wound healing areas is investigated. Because of the complexity of the healing process good models are needed.

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

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

It is not clear how many biopsies are taken per wound for bacterial quantification. The data should be presented either in a table or in a figure not both (table 1 and figure 2, and table 2 and figure 3 present the same data).

The nonparametric test used to evaluate the data should be given. The n is very low.

When the data are not normally distributed the data can best be presented as median with the range. The meaning of the symbols used in figure 1 (+, *,#, §) should be explained.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests