Reviewer's report

Title: Exogenous Glycosaminoglycans Coat Damaged Bladder Surfaces in Experimentally Damaged Mouse Bladder

Version: 1 Date: 10 January 2005

Reviewer: simon lewis

Reviewer's report:

General
This paper describes the effect of chemical treatment (acid, trypsin or protamine) of the luminal surface of the mouse urothelium on its binding capacity for chondroitin sulfate. The authors show that in acid and trypsin treated urothelium there is increased chondroitin binding compared to control. In protamine treated tissues chondroitin binding was reduced when compared to acid and trypsin treated tissues. They conclude that chondroitin binds preferentially to damaged bladder. Listed below are comments that the authors should consider.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
In figure one it is difficult to see the epithelium. The authors need to supply a corresponding light micrograph. In this manner one can see the orientation of the urothelium as well as the level of damage.

The authors need to quantitate the level of binding. How uniform was the labeling? How many animals were used in each condition?

Evidence is needed to demonstrate that there was damage to the urothelium.

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What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory 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:
I declare that I have no competing interests