Reviewer’s report

Title: Little effects of Insulin-like Growth Factor-I on testicular atrophy induced by hypoxia

Version: 1 Date: 1 November 2005

Reviewer: Jens-Gerd G Scharf

Reviewer’s report:

Castilla-Cortázar and co-workers submitted a revised version of the manuscript describing the therapeutical effects of exogenous IGF-I in a rat model of ischemia-induced testicular atrophy induced by epinephrin. The authors responded to some of the points raised by the reviewers. However, again several major issues need to be addressed.

1. Abstract. Material and Methods. It is stated that “testicular atrophy was induced by epinephrine (1.2 mg/kg intravaginal injection five times per week) during 11 weeks”. I guess that testicular atrophy was induced by intra-scrotal injections of epinephrine. Please correct.

2. Material and Materials. Induction of Testicular atrophy. “Healthy, age and sex-matched rats were maintained....” This term is misleading since hopefully only male animals were used as controls.

3. Figure 5B. The authors did not significantly improve the ligand blot of serum IGFBPs. Again, scanning of fragments of even the same ligand blot followed by the arrangement of the fragments to a final figure is not the right procedure to demonstrate the increase of IGFBPs after IGF-I. Please check also the different background of the scanned fragments. The authors have to run new gels and depict ligand blots with sufficient quality for densitometrical analysis. This point is relevant since in the discussion section the authors conclude that “the availability of administered IGF-I seems to be reduced in this study since IGFBP-3 expression is increased after the IGF-I treatment...” Similarly, the authors did not perform Western Blots to discriminate IGFBP-1 and -2. Alternatively, RIA or ELISA could also be performed to solve these problems.

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: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

no competing interests