Reviewer's report

Title: Variation of C peptide decay rate in autoimmune diabetes: better discrimination with initial fasting C peptide

Version: 1 Date: 13 November 2012

Reviewer: Satoshi Murao

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As a result of 48 months follow up of 527 GADAb positive diabetic patients, Li et al suggests that initial level of serum C-peptide is simple and useful marker to predict the fate of beta cell in autoimmune diabetes.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Inclusion criteria of this study should be mentioned in more detail. Ex., sampling strategy, period of sampling, sampling size, etc. These are not described. The disease duration at the point of enrollment is quite important point in this paper, but it is difficult to know how authors define or speculate it.
2. Information on the treatment during 48 month follow up period is lacking.
3. During 48 months of observation period, the decreasing rate of serum C peptide level seems to be similar in both groups (Fig.1). Patients with preserved bets cell function at 48 months seem to develop beta cell failure next 48 to 96 months. Could that mean the different clinical course of these two groups just come from the time-lag of the diagnosis of their diabetes and enrollment?
4. Other factors which could influence the decline of beta cell function should also be analyzed (ideally, with multivariate analysis) to emphasize the importance of initial serum C peptide level.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Condition of postprandial C-peptide sampling is missing (ex., amount of meal, and timing of sampling).

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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