Reviewer's report

Title: Colonic Epithelial Telomere Length and Oxidative DNA Damage in Type 2 Diabetes.

Version: 1 Date: 11 June 2008

Reviewer: Irma Rosa Slavutsky

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Comments to authors:

Kejariwal et al. report on telomere length and oxidative DNA damage in the colonic mucosal cells from 10 subjects with type 2 diabetes (T2DM) and 22 matched controls. The authors hypothesized that the colonic mucosa in patients with T2DM would be characterized by short telomere length and increased oxidative DNA damage. However, no significant differences in both parameters between patients and controls were found.

Discretionary Revisions

- Other hypotheses about association between epithelial cancer and T2DM have been proposed like: an adverse intrauterine environment, type of diet, lifestyle. It would be interesting to include these aspects in the discussion of the paper.
- It would be convenient to perform the study of a large number of cases with different clinical characteristic.

Minor Essential Revision:

- Page 3, Material and methods, first paragraph: Number, mean age and distribution by sex from studied patients and controls were omitted. They must be introduced in the paragraph.
- A subtitle to separate “Patients and controls” might be added.
- Page 4: The title “Methods” was introduced in page 3. It is not necessary to put it again in Page 4.
- Page 4, Telomere length: Abbreviations PE (phycoerythrin) and CK (cytokeratin) must be explained in this paragraph, not in the paragraph related with oxidative DNA damage.
- Page 5, last paragraph: abbreviation BMI must be explained.
- Table 1: Abbreviations must be explained in the footnote.
- Table 2: It was not introduced in the text.
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.