Reviewer’s report

Title: Body mass index in relation to truncal asymmetry of healthy adolescents, a pathogenetic concept. Summary of an electronic focus group debate of the IBSE

Version: 1 Date: 2 March 2013

Reviewer: Toru Maruyama

Reviewer’s report:

The authors describe that severe TAs are caused by a genetically-determined selectively increased sensitivity of the hypothalamus to circulating leptin and hypothalamic functional asymmetry is expressed via the sympathetic nervous system bilaterally to produce left-right asymmetry in ribs and/or vertebrae.

Discretionary Revisions

Please clarify whether these concepts are based on the evidence or only speculations. My questions are: why hypersensitivity to leptin matters in girls with low leptin level, and how hypothalamus can affect the sympathetic nervous system asymmetrically.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.

Toru Maruyama