Reviewer’s report

Title: Hepatic inflammation mediated by hepatitis C virus core protein is ameliorated by blocking complement activation

Version: 1 Date: 28 November 2008

Reviewer: Maria Rapicetta

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The subject of the paper is dealing with pathogenetic aspects of HCV infection with particular reference to liver inflammation fibrosis and steatosis and relationship with HCV Core protein expression. The experiments were based on the use of transgenic mouse model.

The experimental model was able to express low, intermediated and high levels of HCV and to show differences in inflammation steatosis and fibrosis patterns. CD55 administration seems to have effect in inflammation reduction indicating possible involvement of complement pathways.

The proposed model seems interesting however a precise standardization is lacking and the numbers of the animals applied to show the significance of experiments is not clear.

As a major revision, the paper should be completed to clearly indicate the numbers of applied animals and show the statistical significance of experimental results.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests