Reviewer’s report

Title: The therapeutic potential of C-peptide in kidney disease: a protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 1 Date: 15 April 2014

Reviewer: John Wahren

Reviewer’s report:

In this review the authors intend to evaluate the effect of exogenous C-peptide on renal function and structure as presented in all available human and animal studies. The background description is appropriate. The review is adequately and ambitiously planned. I have few and only minor comments.

1. It will be a problem in evaluating the result of the literature search that so relatively few reports are available. The number of studies in patients with type 1 diabetes and varying degrees of renal impairment is less than five; only one or two can be called clinical trials and none fulfills the rigid criteria of a GCP clinical trial. Metananalysis will probably not be feasible. Requirements for kidney replacement and mortality data have not been studied.

2. The value of the planned review will probably be most marked for the animal studies; here a larger number of reports are available, probably around 20 studies. All have varying design so, again, metaanalyses will be difficult.

3. It is of particular interest that the authors include non-diabetic renal disease; surprisingly, a few studies are available and positive findings are reported.