Reviewer’s report

Title: Elevated expression of periostin in diabetic cardiomyopathy and the effect of valsartan

Version: 3 Date: 17 April 2015

Reviewer: Tiina Heliö

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Methods line 14: could the authors explain what means "by lavage", how was valsartan given to the animals?

2. Methods line 20: what was the distribution of glucose values in diabetic rats? How were multiple test taken into account?

3. Results: absolute p-values would be preferable.

4. Results: interpretation of results taking into account statistical aspects.

5. Table 1. could be removed, since the same information is in the Methods.

6. Discussion: a significant proportion of diabetic rats died before analysis. Any comments on the possible effect of this on the results?

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Results line 10: left ventricular coefficient (left ventricular weight/body weight) -> mass index

2. Discussion: previous litterature on the significance of periostin could be in Introduction.

6. Legend to the Fig.1. Exact p-values would be preferable.

7. Legend to the Fig. 2. Exact p-values preferable.

8. Figures 4 and 5. Arrows could be added showing the corresponding findings. The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

Discretionary Revisions

Discussion: altered FFA-metabolism in diabetes has been shown to be one contributing factor to diabetic cardiomyopathy. The lipid metabolisms in rats differs from that in humans. This aspect could be discussed shortly.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No.