Reviewer’s report

Title: Benazepril hydrochloride improves diabetic nephropathy and decreases proteinuria by decreasing ANGPTL-4 expression

Version: 0 Date: 14 Nov 2015

Reviewer: Madeleine Pahl

Reviewer’s report:

The authors studied the effects of benazepril treatment on the expression of ANGPTL-4 mRNA and protein levels in a streptozotocin (STZ) rat-model of diabetes mellitus (DM). They compared biochemical findings, renal histology and ANGPTL-4 levels in normal rats with STZ-induced DM rats treated either with benazepril or saline vehicle. They reported reduction of proteinuria and improvement of renal function in the benazepril treated group. ANGPTL-4 mRNA and protein levels were increased in DM rats when compared to control animals and this effect was mitigated in benazepril-treated animals.

Comments:

It is not clear if all the rats developed proteinuria after STZ-treatment and in those that did not if they were excluded. The authors state they measured 24 hr protein excretion and identified > 30 mg/day as ‘success for diabetic nephropathy (DN) but fail to report the specifics.

The authors fail to report blood pressure (BP) and thus one cannot exclude the effect of hypertension on ANGPTL-4 findings. The authors should include a group of DN rats treated with a non-Ace inhibitor agent to obtain comparable BP levels as those found in the benazepril-treated group.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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