Reviewer’s report

Title: SERUM BTP CONCENTRATIONS ARE NOT AFFECTED BY HEPATIC DYSFUNCTION

Version: 1 Date: 19 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Rainer Woitas

Reviewer's report:

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Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

I can follow the train of thought of the authors alas the „story“ is still not convincing.

The paper has not been re-worked adequately. Provided the metabolism in subgroups of Child B and C cirrhotics is similar as in compensated cirrhosis without ascites the authors should provide the requested scatter plots (cirrhosis with and without ascites compared to controls as well as for compensated cirrhosis and decompensated cirrhosis) at least for reviewing purposes.

This would provide important information about the distribution and skewing of the data and the patient characteristics.

Furthermore, the diagnosis of cirrhosis must be assured meaning did all these patients exhibit signs of portal hypertension? If the patients had no ascites and no varices then the diagnosis of cirrhosis might be incorrect and in doubt. The authors should clarify. Finally they ought to mitigate their statement and confine it to compensated cirrhosis solely.
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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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I do not have competing interests but received honorarium by Siemens AG, Marburg

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