Reviewer’s report

Title: Recombinant Growth Hormone Therapy in Children with Short Stature in Kuwait: A Cross-sectional Study of Use and Treatment Outcomes

Version: 0 Date: 27 Sep 2015

Reviewer: Mieczyslaw Szalecki

Reviewer's report:

Review of the article entitled „ Recombinant Growth Hormone Therapy In Children with Short Stature In Kuwait: A Cross-sectional Study of Use and Treatment Outcomes".

Interesting study of an experiences the major hospital in Kuwait in growth hormone therapy. Authors analyzed results of one year therapy in children with Isolated Growth Hormone Deficiency (diagnosed based on two stimulation tests with a peak GH concentration <7,5 ng/ml), Idiopathic Short Stature and Small for Gestation Age but they did no answer which criteria was used to determined others than IGHD recommendation to use GH. They analyzed the influence of gender, age at initiation, pre-pubertal status at initiation, height SDS and BMI at initiation.

Unfortunately they did not analyzed the influence of IGF-1 and IGFBP-3 concentration, bone age, mid-parental height and especially growth hormone doses. The last point is very important because we don't know if the doses use in therapy of ISS and IGHD children were similar or different.

May be here is the key to understand the poor answer in therapy of ISS children (also the qualifications this group for treatment). For all children the same growth chards (WHO) were used in spite of fact that children were not the same origin and the group was multiethnic.

Of course one year period is too small to assess the final results but some observations are interesting for example no influence of gender, influence of age at initial, very good answer in IGHD group and very poor in ISS group. Some more details is necessary to understand the results especially GH doses in both group and criteria in ISS and SGA groups (for example genetic, SHOX gene and so on).
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

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

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below.
If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests' below.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal