Reviewer’s report

Title: A Randomized, Controlled, Crossover Pilot Study of Losartan for Pediatric Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease

Version: 0 Date: 26 Mar 2018

Reviewer: Giada Sebastian

Reviewer's report:

The pilot study by Vos et al addresses an important clinical unmet need: treatment of NAFLD in a paediatric population. Unfortunately, this condition has become an emerging health concern in the paediatric population in Western countries. As of today, there is no efficace treatment for NASH, neither in the adults, not in children. However, in the former there are ongoing global clinical trials, while this is not the case in children. Twelve children were enrolled in the study and nine completed all the lists, with a 6-week interventional period. The researchers report trends in improvement in ALT, AST and HOMA-IR in the losartan arm treatment compared to the placebo arm.

Comments

1) The authors should be more specific in the results section of the abstractly including numbers/percentage to justify their conclusion (as they did in the results section of the manuscript body).

2) The authors should provide more information about the liver biopsy quality/execution. What was the technique? Mean+SD length and mean+SD number of portal tracts should be reported. Was the pathologist a single reader were there more than one pathologist involved?

3) Beside transaminases, the researchers should report changes in non-invasive liver fibrosis tests. If no transient elastography or other imaging technique was available, they should include simple fibrosis biomarkers, which have been also validated in the paediatric setting: APRI, FIB-4 (see for example, Yang et al, WJG 2012).

4) Table 1 showing demographic is quite scarce in terms of information given. Platelets? GGT? Medications the children are on? Coffee and alcohol intake?

5) There is no mention of collecting data about alcohol intake and at what threshold of alcohol intake patients were excluded.
6) Can the authors provide a flow chart of participants selection with those excluded, even as a supplemental figure?

**Level of interest**
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**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 I have no competing interests.

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