March 18, 2021

Warren C. Ladiges, DVM, MSc, DACLAM

Editor-in-chief

Professor and Director

Department of Comparative Medicine

School of Medicine, University of Washington

Seattle, WA, USA

Dear Dr. Ladiges,

Thank you for the thorough and useful review of our note, “Hepatic steatosis, a lesion reported in captive aged common marmosets”. We would like to thank the reviewers for their time and effort as well as their suggestions to help us improve the presentation of this condition in this note. We have considered the comment raised by reviewer A and have edited our manuscript accordingly. The aim of our geropathology note is to share histological changes of a common lesion seen in the liver in our indoor-housed colonies of marmosets. We feel that the information provided in our note meets the guidelines for a note in the journal. Our objective was not to write a case report of this condition. We are currently studying the prevalence and characterizing the risk factors associated with this condition in our marmoset colony. We hope that the revision and response provided address the reviewer’ comment sufficiently.

Please find out responses to the reviewers below.

With many thanks and best regards,

Sincerely,

Sebastian E. Carrasco DVM, MPVM, MSc, Ph.D. DACVP

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Reviewer A.

In this short manuscript, the authors report the occurrence of hepatic steatosis in captive aged common marmosets and describe the histopathological observations. As the authors noted, the common marmosets have gained much scientific interest in aging research, and it is of importance to characterize their age-related pathology and possible relevance to human aging. However, it is not really clear why this short manuscript focused only on hepatic steatosis
and its significance/importance to aging. In addition, the majority of the manuscript is based on other people’s work. Thus, it would be better to show other lesions and/or explore the mechanistic aspect of hepatic steatosis.

Thank you for your feedback. The purpose of this note is to illustrate the histopathology of a lesion commonly seen in our colonies of indoor-housed adult and adult-aged marmosets in our colonies (**see 1st paragraph, line 32-34**). We have also observed the lesion in young marmosets, but the incidence of the lesion increases with age. We are currently studying the prevalence of the lesion and evaluating risk factors associated with the condition in our marmoset colonies. These data will be included in a separate manuscript. Little is known on the signaling pathways and mechanisms associated with NAFLD in marmosets. Other research labs in the country are studying the pathogenic mechanisms of this condition in marmosets, which is not the intent of this note. We have included a paragraph in the manuscript directing readers to review mechanistic aspects of the condition in other models of NAFLD/NASH (**see 2nd paragraph, line 59-61**).
Reviewer B.
A well prepared submission in the form of a note.  No changes are suggested. Figures are excellent.

Thank you for your comment.