Serum hepcidin and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Sir,

The recent report on serum hepcidin and COPD is very interesting.^[1] Duru *et al.* concluded that "serum hepcidin level may be a useful marker in COPD."^[1] As Duru *et al.* proposed, a further confirmation is required. An important point is there is no complete assessment on hepatitis profile (such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C, etc.) needed. Also, some genetic disorders can also alter the hepcidin level that has to be ruled out. Thalassemia^[2] as well as some other rare genetic mutations^[3] should be ruled out. It is still very inconclusive to conclude for any usefulness of hepcidin as a new biomarker for COPD.

Beuy Joob, Viroj Wiwanitkit¹

Sanitation, Medical Academic Center, ¹Wiwanitkit House, Bangkhae, Bangkok, Thailand E-mail: beuyjoob@hotmail.com

References

- Duru S, Bilgin E, Ardiç S. Hepcidin: A useful marker in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Ann Thorac Med 2012;7:31-5.
- 2. Origa R, Galanello R. Pathophysiology of beta thalassaemia. Pediatr Endocrinol Rev 2011;8 (Suppl 2):263-70.
- Melis MA, Cau M, Congiu R, Sole G, Barella S, Cao A, et al. A mutation in the TMPRSS6 gene, encoding a transmembrane serine protease that suppresses hepcidin production, in familial iron deficiency anemia refractory to oral iron. Haematologica 2008;93:1473-9.

Access this article online	
Quick Response Code:	
	Website: www.thoracicmedicine.org
	DOI: 10.4103/1817-1737.98855