

**Answering reviewers' queries.** We have provided answered to the reviewers' comments. We added sentences on clinical application which two of the reviewers suggested. We also included explanation on the negative correlation of hepcidin with serum ferritin in humans. We have corrected all typographical and spelling errors.

#### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript is well written and easy to read. Results support the conclusions. Authors should add, both in introduction and in the discussion, the relevance of the results in term of possible clinical application. Moreover, since in literature some authors described the relation between hepcidin levels and s-ferritin values it could be interesting to know whether in this study s-ferritin levels have been evaluated as well as analysed in comparison to the other studied variables. A correlation with s-ferritin levels may be much more easily translated into clinical suggestions.

Enhanced heme iron intake by homozygous HFE subjects may contribute to body iron overload and early manifestation of phenotypic traits. This may have implications for dietary recommendations on heme intake by HH subjects to avert tissue iron loading. Moreover, since high intake of red meat has been associated with elevated amount of iron in the body and increased risk of metabolic diseases, an emerging consensus, in general, suggests regulated meat consumption by the populace.

Hepcidin levels in the liver correlate negatively with serum ferritin which in humans is a biomarker of iron intake and iron status.

#### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It is a very well written manuscript investigating the influence of Hfe mutation on Fe labelled duodenal heme absorption in mice and showing that heme absorption was enhanced from both duodenal tied-loop segments and by oral gavage methods. Please add in the Discussion clinical implication of this finding.

Enhanced heme iron intake by homozygous HFE subjects may contribute to body iron overload and early manifestation of phenotypic traits. This may have implications for dietary recommendations on heme intake by HH subjects to avert tissue iron loading. Moreover, since high intake of red meat has been associated with elevated amount of iron in the body and increased risk of metabolic diseases, an

emerging consensus, in general, suggests regulated meat consumption by the populace.

#### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The content is excellent but there are many mistakes on spacing, spelling etc. It must be checked again before publishing.

We have corrected all typographical and spelling errors.

Hepcidin levels in the liver correlate negatively with serum ferritin which in humans is a biomarker of iron intake and iron status.