

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 59872

Title: The role of ammonia in predicting the outcome of patients with acute-on-chronic liver failure

Reviewer's code: 03446972

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Romania

Manuscript submission date: 2020-10-03

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-11-08 03:27

Reviewer performed review: 2020-11-09 14:56

Review time: 1 Day and 11 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It is a retrospective study. 446 patients were included this study and this study indicated that VA could be used as an inexpensive predictor of in-hospital mortality in patients with ACLF. Patients with both ACLF and VA>152.5 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ have a high risk for a poor outcome. Some data need to be added. 1. In Mortality analysis, what is the time point to calculate death? 2. High VA is a common indicator for the diagnosis of HE. And HE is a complication for ACLF which has a prognosis role. Therefore, high VA as an inexpensive predictor of in-hospital mortality in patients with ACLF is lack of novelty. The important discovery in this paper is to find the cut-off value of VA. However, I do not consider this a point new finding can support the publication of this manuscript. I hope that based on this big data, the authors could find more in this study, such as building a prognosis model. 3. It is interesting that the presence of HE was not associated with increased mortality in this study. Please make a deeper explanation. 4. Please add liver background information in to the Table 1. 5. Please add the cause of death for this study. 6. Some number in the Table2 is not matched,such as Child-Pugh class, n (%). 7. The Non-survivors group is 35 and Survivors group is 411. I have to say this data cannot have a good balance in this two groups.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Romania

Manuscript submission date: 2020-10-03

Reviewer chosen by: Chen-Chen Gao

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-12-06 09:24

Reviewer performed review: 2020-12-10 07:06

Review time: 3 Days and 21 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



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The authors are very responsive to my previous comments, and I have no further questions