

Reviewer #1:**Scientific Quality:** Grade C (Good)**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)**Conclusion:** Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: This paper only uses the data from one center, and there are many layers in data analysis. Is it because of the small sample size and geographical limitations that the objective results of the data are affected? It may be more convincing if multi-centers are combined or the research results are applied to future clinical cases for verification.

Response:

We appreciate this question and feel that the single center nature of the study offers the ability to apply more granular data to look at a complex topic. Hopefully in the future this would be possible to do on a larger scale.

Reviewer #2:**Scientific Quality:** Grade B (Very good)**Language Quality:** Grade A (Priority publishing)**Conclusion:** Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: In this manuscript, authors executed a single center retrospective cohort study to evaluate clinical characteristics of patients undergoing inpatient LTE and to assess the effects of delayed LTE on clinic outcomes. It was found that delaying LTE increased risk of death and reduced risk of LT in patients with CLD. Their findings were interesting and essential for improving the transplant referral process. However, there remains some comments taken for consideration during revision.

Response

- 1. A recently published study indicated that evaluation within 30 days of referral for LT was associated with reduced mortality (PMID: 33587434). Differences in the demarcation of delayed and early referral LTE would influence the conclusions and clinic decision making, which should be discussed.
 - o We appreciated you bringing this paper to our attention. The paper addressed and referenced in our discussion section.
- 2. Please supplement how to diagnose malnutrition. Meanwhile, BMI and diabetes at referral should also be added.

- Thank you for this suggestion and we agree with the reviewer's proposed additions. The definition of malnutrition was added to the study design and definitions section. The average BMI and percentage of patients with diabetes were included in the "Clinical Care" section of the results.
- 3. The title needs to be adjusted, owing to the fact that this study only enrolled patients with CLD and didn't include patients with liver malignancies.
 - Thank you for this suggestion. The title of the article has been updated.
- 4. Define the abbreviation when it first appeared, like CLD.
 - We thank this reviewer for their attention to detail. Abbreviations have been reviewed and addressed through the paper.