

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 56043

Title: High levels of serum interleukin 6 increased mortality from hepatitis B virus-associated acute-on-chronic liver failure

Reviewer's code: 03011144

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: BM BCh, DNB

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: India

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-04-22

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-06-06 08:47

Reviewer performed review: 2020-06-08 10:53

Review time: 2 Days and 2 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input 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 Grade E: Do not publish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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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

1. Was a sample size calculation done? 2. Being a retrospective study, why was it not extended up to date / recent (study was done from 2012-2014)? 3. How was alcohol excluded (based on amount of intake / label as substance user)? 4. Being multicentric, how was IL6 estimation standardized? 5. How was uniformity assured at times when the IL6 estimation was done? How many times samples were drawn during the course of stay? 6. Renal 'disfunction' mentioned in tables 1-3 not defined. 7. What exactly were the infections other than SBP? 8. How to account for the discrepancy in mortality between groups A & B with regard to IL 6 values (high IL6 - higher association with death, whereas group A had high IL6 value with low mortality compared to group B with low IL6 value and higher mortality) 9. "According to the dynamic changes in IL-6 within 4 weeks, patients were classified into four groups, .." Is it the total number ? Table 3 A+B+C+D = 246 (total 412) 10. "IL6 was an independent prognostic factor". Is the data sufficient to reach this conclusion? 11. Whether level of IL6 responsible for poor prognostic significance / outcome determination in ACLF available? Were HBV titre and IL6 co-related? 12. Other study limitations not acknowledged such as multicentre / sample size, etc 13. References not in appropriate format (author numbers, abbreviated journal name)