

To Whom it May Concern,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the reviewers for their diligent remarks and comments. Truly, their inputs have made this piece of research better. Please refer to the point-by-point response to the reviewer comments below.

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Novelty of This Manuscript: Grade C (Fair)

Creativity or Innovation of This Manuscript: Grade C (Fair)

Scientific Significance of the Conclusion in This Manuscript: Grade B (Good)

Specific Comments to Authors: None

No revisions needed.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade D (Fair)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Major revision

Specific Comments to Authors: This is an interesting study, but I have some comments: 1) it is not indicated for which period the mortality was estimated, there is no standard analysis of the significance of the difference in mortality (Kaplan-Meier estimator), there is no multivariate Cox regression in the analysis of mortality; 2) patients with concomitant hepatitis B and C should be excluded from the study, as these conditions also contribute to the clinical course of the disease.

Thank you very much for your suggestions. Based on your comments, our team worked to review our available database and abstract the relevant data needed to generate a survival analysis by Kaplan-Meier method as well as Cox proportional-hazards models to report the hazard ratios and 95% CI while accounting for age at diagnosis, sex, and race. In regard to the comment about patients with concomitant hepatitis B and C, we acknowledge that hepatitis B and C can certainly have affected hepatic disease severity. Ultimately, after discussing the matter with our co-authors, we decided that while excluding hepatitis B and C from the study population would have been ideal, the prevalence of hepatitis B is relatively low (2-13%) and the prevalence of hepatitis C reflects the characteristics of our underlying population.

Reviewer #3:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: The study is well presented and coherently organized. I have a small comment. In my opinion the title and the conclusion are not in concordance with the results. The mortality is higher in CD than ACP. This is an important aspect. Therefore, from my point of view the title and the conclusion should be revised.

Thank you for your comments. In light of new findings through Kaplan-Meier analysis demonstrating no significant differences in mortality between the three clinical groups, the title was changed from "...not worse phenotype..." to "...comparable phenotype..." to accurately reflect the new findings.

It is our hope that these changes to the manuscript meet the quality metrics of the World Journal of Hepatology.

We look forward to hearing from you soon,

Michael Lu, Dhiraj Yadav