**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Trends in Liver Transplantation for Primary Biliary Cirrhosis in The Netherlands 1988-2008

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 13 May 2010

**Reviewer:** Wolf O Bechstein

**Reviewer's report:**

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. The manuscript and tables are inconsistent with regard to the time periods studied and analysed. In the abstract as well as in the Manuscript, the two decades are stated as 1988-1998 and 1998 - 2008, while in the table the decades are separated as 1988-1997 and 1998 - 2008. In the "patients and methods" section the time period is stated as "all patients who underwent LTX in the Netherlands from January 1988 until January 2008". Either patients in 1998 have been counted twice, which would be a serious flaw, or this is just a misprint. In any case, two precise decades would be 1.1.1988 - 31.12.1997 and 1.1.1998 - 31.12.2007. Notably, in the figures no case is recorded for 2008.

2. Five patients died on the waiting list, and these only during the second decade. Waiting time was longer during the second decade. If the 5 patients that died had been transplanted, the statistical analysis given the small numbers would perhaps be different. One might argue that - for whatever reasons - the health care system during the second decade was not as effective as during the first decade in delivering liver transplantation to affected individuals with PBC in a timely manner.

Minor essential revision:

1. Page 5: spell out SBP - spontaneous bacterial peritonitis

Discretionary revisions:

you may consider briefly explaining "Schirmer's Test" e.g.(schirmer's test (for assessing tear production to diagnose xerophthalmia))

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.