Reviewer’s report

Title: Budd-Chiari Syndrome: Long term success via hepatic decompression using transjugular intrahepatic porto-systemic shunt

Version: 1 Date: 2 October 2009

Reviewer: Juan Gonzalez-Abraldes

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This study reports a single center experience over 20 years with patients with Budd-Chiari Syndrome. The center has a special experience in TIPS (since TIPS was developed there). They gathered 20 patients. Among them 13 underwent TIPS and 4 liver transplantation.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The recent study by Darwish Murad S (Ann Intern Med. 2009 Aug 4;151(3):167-75), which is the only prospective study on Budd-Chiari, should be quoted and commented. A relevant finding of that study is that almost 50% of the patients can be managed conservatively.

2. The authors should discuss the fact that they have not used covered stents. This is not unexpected, since the availability of these stents is relatively recent. The use of covered stents have been associated with a lower rate of dysfunction, both in patients with cirrhosis (Bureau et al, Gastroenterology 2004) and Budd-Chiari syndrome (Hernández-Guerra et al, Hepatology 2004)

3. Table 1: 3 patients (those that did not had TIPS or liver transplantation) are not reported. They should be added to the table

Minor Essential Revisions

4. The authors should discuss that some patients previously considered of unknown etiology can be currently diagnosed of myeloproliferative syndromes by the analysis of JAK2 mutation.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'