Reviewer's report

Title: High prevalence of gastroesophageal reflux esophagitis in Chinese patients with chronic liver diseases

Version: 1 Date: 22 January 2010

Reviewer: Jan Hatlebakk

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- Major Compulsory Revisions

The manuscript is of interest, but raises some concerns which

1. I find the introduction and extensive discussion imprecise in wording and with less focus on what the study is actually about. Both should be rewritten and the extensive overlap should be corrected by taking out the first few sentences of the introduction.

2. It is hard to accept that the symptoms of gERD were atypical, as is stated in the discussion. Instead it is possible that the patients were asymptomatic from GE, but suffered from other symptoms. What questionnaire was used to record such atypical symptoms?

3. The classification of varices is uncommon, and no reference is given. I also feel it is incorrect to change the exact wording of the LA classification of reflux oesophagitis from what was originally published (even though it is likely to be a correct interpretation).

4. I have problems adding up the number of patients in each subgroup. I am not sure that using patients with acute hepatitis is an ideal control group, since their digestive functions might be compromised. Can you have hepatitis E without hepatitis B??

5. The details of statistical analysis is not clear to me.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests.