Reviewer's report

Title: Transient elastography for predicting esophageal/gastric varices in children with biliary atresia

Version: 1 Date: 5 February 2011

Reviewer: Seok Joo Han

Reviewer's report:

1. The authors mentioned that the splenomegaly on physical examination would be a useful screening tool for predicting esophageal and gastric varices. However, there is no scientific definition of splenomegaly in manuscript. I think that they should define the splenomegaly with more detail and objective terminology before using the data of splenomegaly.

2. In reference 26, the sensitivity of splenomegaly is 97.7%, but the specificity is just up 26.8 percent. However, in this study, the sensitivity 92% and specificity 85% of splenomegaly is 92 and 85%, respectively. How could authors get such good results? What is the reason of such good result?

3. The number of patients with splenomegaly in Table 1 (39 patients) is different from the number of result section (44 patients).

4. In the second sentence of methods, “esophageal/gastric varices” should be replaced with its abbreviation such as EV/GV.

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

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

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' below