Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Assessment of intrahepatic blood flow by Doppler ultrasonography: relationship between the hepatic vein, portal vein, hepatic artery and portal pressure measured intraoperatively in patients with portal hypertension

**Version:** 5  **Date:** 13 May 2011

**Reviewer:** Annalisa Berzigotti

**Reviewer’s report:**

The authors partially answered to the criticisms previously raised.

Minor Essential Revisions

The only accepted indication for shunt surgery in portal hypertension is secondary prophylaxis (history of recurrent variceal bleeding) in Child A patients (De Franchis et al. Baveno V consensus conference, J Hepatology 2010); in patients with ascites transjugular intrahepatic porto-systemic shunt has to be preferred due to a lower mortality related to the procedure. Prophylactic surgery in patients who have not bled yet is contraindicated due to its high risk (Consensus conference of Baveno III and IV).

Since some of the patients included in the present paper were treated with derivative surgery as a primary prophylaxis (3 patients underwent shunt surgery for hyperdynamic syndrome alone and 4 due to "CT showing cirrhosis with large tubercules), I think the authors should include in the text:

1) the number/percentage of patients with an history of variceal bleeding
2) the detailed indications of derivative surgery in their Hospital
3) the indication of derivative surgery in all the patients included in the present study

**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.