Reviewer's report

Title: The occurrence of Urinary Tract Infection before development of Primary Biliary Cirrhosis: a case control study.

Version: 1 Date: 10 March 2011

Reviewer: Ikuko Haruta

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The authors studied OR of UTI and smoking as risk factors of PBC. There are already several reports about these (plus additional factors). So the findings in this report seemed to be not novel.

1) Was ethnicity considered for characteristic of cases?

2) In Table 1, smokers were classified never, ever and missing. How about current and former?

3) Does ‘CI’ mean ‘95% CI’?

4) Although authors commented about diabetes as a known risk factor for the development of UTI in page 7 and listed in the Table 1, there was no analysis and argument about diabetes in Discussion.

5) Page 13, line 267-268 is over speculation. Did authors studied about the cause of UTI? Was there any information that E. coli was dominant in these PBC patients’ urine culture, when they had been diagnosed as pyelonephritis? Any supportive data?

6) Page 14, line 289, what do you mean ‘some laboratory’?

7) The first time when authors wrote bacterial name, it should be written full spelling.
   (page 4, line 75; N. aromaticivorans, page 8, line 160 E. coli.) And E. coli should be expressed Italic (page p14, line 291 and 293).

8) Page 13, line 274-276, ‘Secondary … urothelial membrane’ is over speculation as well. Any evidence or referenced paper?

9) Is reference number 23, (Suppl A-837) published paper?