Reviewer's report

**Title:** Autophagy and apoptosis-related genes in chronic liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 2 July 2012

**Reviewer:** Muriel Priault

**Reviewer's report:**

Minor essential revisions:
The authors have convincingly addressed all the concerns raised after the first review. There are still spelling errors in the material and methods section (1rst group: 3 femaleS, 2nd group: 2 femaleS, 3rd group: 1 female).

Also, I would recommend that the western blots shown Fig 3 are not cut so close to the band of interest, notably for Bcl-xL, which undergoes known post-translational modifications: it seems that depending on the samples, a slower migrating band appears above the main band. Even if the authors do not comment on the upper band and do not take it into account in their interpretation, this visual information is definitely be very valuable for some readers. Please modify this accordingly.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.