Reviewer’s report

Title: Effect of Laparoscopic Splenectomy in Patients with Hepatitis C and Cirrhosis Carrying IL28B Minor Genotype

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Reviewer: Masashi Mizokami

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Motomura T. et al. described the efficacy of splenectomy before the induction of PEG-IFN/RBV(IFN) therapy to liver cirrhosis with IL28B minor allele(s). Because low success rate of IFN therapy to cirrhosis or those who have IL28B SNPs minor type is a serious problem, it is of interest that the removing spleen would improve the viral response rate in genetically disadvantaged patients. This draft seems to be very interesting, although there are still some problems.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Page 6, line 14. “Eighty-one of 125 patients achieved a VR (70.4%).”
   It is described “127 patients were enrolled in the current study” in the paragraph “Methods”. How is the difference between 125 and 127?

Discretionary Revisions
1. Page 5, paragraph “Patient’ Characteristics”.
   It is well-known that viral response rate to IFN therapy is correlated with HCV genotype. Please make the analysis with HCV genotype.
2. Figure 2C
   In Figure 2C, the authors mentioned that comparing Hb levels of 4 and 8 weeks after the IFN therapy, there is no significant difference between Spx group and non-Spx group. However, Figure 2C strongly suggested that #Hb between 0 and 4 weeks of IFN therapy might be significantly different. So, I would like to recommend to analyze all data with#Hb again.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.