Reviewer's report

Title: Elevated circulating soluble interleukin-2 receptor in patients with chronic liver diseases is associated with non-classical monocytes

Version: 1 Date: 20 March 2012

Reviewer: kang xiaonan

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Minor essential revision

It was long known that sIL-2R levels offer a rapid, reliable, and noninvasive measure of disease activity, response to therapy, and, in some cases, prognosis in a broad spectrum of conditions associated with T- or B-cell immune activation. Elevated sIL-2R has been reported for distinct hepatic disorders but the clinical significance of this finding remained vague. This work measured serum sIL-2R levels in 71 patients with chronic liver diseases and analyzed the correlation between sIL-2R serum concentration and various routine and experimental laboratory parameters including liver function, hepatic fibrosis, inflammation and renal function. sIL2-R levels correlated closely with circulating monocytes, especially non-classical CD14+CD16+ monocytes. sIL-2R could be possibly a useful marker in chronic liver diseases (CLD).

Here is a question that in Fig 1 ABCF, what does the symbol “ # ” represent?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.