Reviewer’s report

Title: Independent association of HbA1c and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease in an elderly Chinese population

Version: 1 Date: 11 September 2012

Reviewer: Yue Wang

Reviewer’s report:

This cross-sectional study aimed to analysis the association of HbA1c with NAFLD in an elderly Chinese population. The authors observed a significant increase of HbA1c levels in NAFLD patients, and regression analysis showed that increased serum HbA1c level was an independent risk factor for NAFLD. The goal and the importance of this work are clearly stated. The data is well presented and well argued. It is a well construed study and may be valuable for publication after minor revision, my comments are list below.

1. The population studied includes retired employees of one company alone. Whether this could be a representative sample of the elderly Chinese population remains to be ascertained.

2. Most readers will not be familiar with the ultrasound diagnostic criteria established by the Chinese Liver Disease Association for NAFLD. If it is not too lengthy, the authors should summarize this and put the criteria in the text. This will help the readers to understand how to diagnosis has been made.

3. It is not clear how the stepwise multivariate analysis was carried out. How were covariates selected for inclusion and exclusion from the model?

4. A recent reference regarding prevalence and risk factors of NAFLD in the elderly should be added:

5. Table 2 should include the units of the variables.

6. There are minor problems with English language.

7. Abbreviations should be explained when first used.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 have no competing interests in relation to this paper