Reviewer's report

**Title:** White cell count and platelet count associate with histological alcoholic hepatitis in jaundiced harmful drinkers

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 24 November 2012

**Reviewer:** Jochen Hampe

**Reviewer's report:**

Major compulsory revisions:

1. ASAT (GOT) values are not reported - thus is very unusual given alcoholic liver disease is investigated.

2. A logistic regression model using ASAT as a conventional activity marker as a baseline model +/- platlet count and the appropriate backward selection models should be used to formally look for the superiority of either (also WBC and platelet count parameters)

3. only scarce information on the histological severity is available: one could for instance do a direct pair-wise correlation analysis of histological inflammation versus clinical predictors and look for groups based on histological inflammation grade etc.

4. What about fibrosis: do patients with histological fibrosis also show this pattern of laboratory abnormalities?

Minor: multiple small typos, missing spaces etc.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.