Reviewer's report

Title: Diabetes mellitus impacts risk of macrovascular invasion in patients undergoing transplantation for hepatocellular carcinoma

Version: 1 Date: 26 September 2012

Reviewer: Alistair W Stewart

Reviewer's report:

This paper is clearly written. I have only a few relatively minor comments.

Minor Essential Revisions

Page 8: section on survival. The reporting of median survival times and then mean survival times with other statistics is confusing. The standard deviation is not a very useful statistic in this situation and the maximum survival is of no value when about 50% of the patients have a censored survival time. This whole paragraph needs tidying up to give the reader a clear picture of what has occurred. The authors might like to consider a figure showing the survival curves with 95%CI for these curves. This may be a better way of describing the situation.

Table 1. There is extensive use of abbreviations in this table – these need to be written in full or defined as a footnote. AFP (not described elsewhere) needs to have a measure of variation reported as does the transplant wait list time. The variation could be reported using inter quartile range.

Tables 2, 3 & 4. The number of decimal places should be reduced to an appropriate level. It is ‘95% Confidence Limits’. Table 4 the P value for DM needs correcting.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests