Reviewer's report

Title: Alpha-Fetoprotein Level as a Biomarker of Liver Fibrosis Status in 619 consecutive patients with Chronic Hepatitis B

Version: 2 Date: 7 May 2014

Reviewer: Anna Pecorelli

Reviewer's report:

In this paper Liu and co-workers aimed to identifying the association between Alfa-Fetoprotein levels and different stages of liver fibrosis and inflammations. The authors have adequately revised the manuscript according to the major revisions suggested. Statistics has been improved as well as quality of written English. The study has still some limitations, clearly stated in the discussion:
- mild accuracy in defined both inflammation and fibrosis by AFP (as defined by AUROC < 0.8);
- the use of the pathological staging system used in China, without comparison with others staging system;
- not dynamic measurements of AFP;
To increase the quality of the work it could be useful to compare AFP levels with APRI score for fibrosis.

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

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