Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of pre-transplant electrocardiographic abnormalities and post-transplant cardiac events in patients with liver cirrhosis

Version: 2 Date: 18 January 2014

Reviewer: Jorge Quiroga

Reviewer’s report:

Minor essential revisions

1. Were the patients subjected to procedures after the pretransplant cardiac work-up?. For example, pacemaker placement, coronary artery ballooning or stenting or cardiac resincronization?. If so, the basal EKG, that is the core of this study is not the true pre-transplant EKG. This points needs clarification.

2. There were cardiac events during the transplant surgery?. If so, were these events recorded and included as post-transplant cardiac complications in this series?. Intraoperative time is period of special risk for these events and this ponit needs clarification

3. The cases of post-transplant deaths due to heart disease should be detailed and its relationship with pre-transplant EKG alterations explained. Numerical data may be added to table 5.

4. This same group of investigators reported previously (reference 13 in this paper) the occurrence of peri-transplant heart failure in virtually this same series of patients (186 patients in this paper and 177 in the previous one). The previous paper included detailed pre-transplant echocardiographic data and only few EKG data. The decision of the author’s of splitting pre-transplant heart data in two papers is acceptable but jeopardizes, at least in part, the global comprehension of the impact of heart disease on post-transplant evolution. In this reviewer’s oppinion the paper would be improved if the authors make an effort for integrating in the discussion of this paper the information they obtained in the previous one. Surprinsingly, the comments the authors devote to that paper in the discussion are extremely scarce.

5. The number of patients that were finally evaluated should be mentioned in the abstract

Level of interest: An article of importance 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 declare that I have no competing interests