Reviewer's report

Title: The accuracy of the report of hepatic steatosis on ultrasonography in a clinical setting: A retrospective observational study

Version: 1 Date: 2 December 2004

Reviewer: Bruce A Runyon

Reviewer's report:

General

This is a "real-world" study of the sensitivity and specificity of ultrasound in detecting steatosis in the setting of hepatitis C, with biopsy as the gold standard.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. Hepatitis C should be included in the title.

2. It would make the most sense to include only patients with ultrasound and biopsy (122). Why include those who had no biopsy?

3. The ultrasound equipment used should be stated. Some equipment may be preferable to others for this purpose.

4. Were there patients with focal fatty liver or focal fatty sparing? If so, was the biopsy directed?

5. What was the interval from ultrasound to biopsy? If it was long, weight change during that interval would be relevant.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

None

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

1. The authors may want to mention other imaging modalities that are better than ultrasound in detecting fat.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests