Reviewer's report

Title: Outcomes in Culture Positive and Culture Negative Ascitic Fluid Infection in Patients with Viral Cirrhosis: Cohort Study

Version: 2 Date: 14 September 2008

Reviewer: Sang Hoon Ahn

Reviewer's report:

This retrospective study examined the outcome and predictors for the survival in cirrhotic patients with ascitic fluid infection. The authors found that the patients with culture positive (SBP) had a higher in-hospital mortality compared to those culture negative (CNNA), and independent predictors for the survival included lower serum creatinine level and blood culture negativity.

This study addressed an interesting issue that has not been confirmed previously. The supplement for the following points would improve the manuscript.

Comments

1. The author should show the survival curve depicting the difference of in-hospital mortality between SBP and CNNA group. In addition, please add the table that shows the list of predictors for the survival and statistical results on uni/multi-variate analysis described on page 10.

2. Describe the cause of death. How many patients died of ascitic fluid infection rather than of other cirrhotic complications?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.