Reviewer's report

**Title:** Blood ammonia levels in liver cirrhosis: a clue for the presence of esophageal varices.

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 6 February 2009

**Reviewer:** Roberto de Franchis

**Reviewer's report:**

Minor essential revisions

1) An important piece of information which is missing is the number of patients with NH4 levels above the 42 microMoles threshold who had no varices. This would give a measure of the number of unnecessary endoscopies that would have been made if the threshold was adopted.

2) The English form has somewhat improved, but the paper still needs revision by a native English speaker, since the form is awkward in several points.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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