Reviewer's report

Title: Outcomes and factors influencing survival in cirrhotic cases with spontaneous rupture of hepatocellular carcinoma: a multicenter study

Version: 3 Date: 5 April 2009

Reviewer: Sven Wallerstedt

Reviewer's report:

I think that the authors have made a good revision of the manuscript, and I find that they have responded to my criticism. The most important correction is the change of the inclusion criteria for patients into group ConT by use of defined exclusion criteria with the result that the two groups now are fairly similar. However, I have two minor comments, of which one is a consequence of this change and thus necessary to handle.

1. After reducing the ConT group from 38 to 32 persons the authors present a lot of data from this new group. This is also done considering cause of death in Results, last para. However, the authors have forgotten to change the figures in Table 6, which must be done. I also think that it will be easier to understand the table if the legend is completed with the following text: “In one of the 16 TAE patients it was not possible to stop the hemorrhage by use of TAE.”

2. The authors have accepted my recommendation to insert “cirrhotic” at several places in the text, which I think should be done also in the first sentence in Methods between “48” and “patients”.

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.