Reviewer's report

Title: The French national prospective cohort of patients co-infected with HIV and HCV (ANRS CO13 HEPAVIH): Early findings, 2006-2010

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Reviewer: Valerianna K. Amorosa

Reviewer's report:

The authors goals for the article are by and large descriptive – to describe the HIV/HCV cohort they have developed, the purposes of the cohort, the baseline cohort characteristics and to delineate some potential future aims for the cohort. The methods are clear and well described and the data appear to be clean and sound as far as I can tell. The manuscript does adhere to appropriate reporting standards and the conclusions – which are not far reaching given the descriptive nature of the subject - are reasonable. The cohort’s limitations are well stated.

In publishing this cohort description at this point (while it appears the first true study from the cohort is still in press – reference 22), the authors do state that their goal is in part to allow the cohort subjects to understand the nature of the research conducted – which is a noble goal. On the other hand, it seems they already have the data in hand to report on some of the other elements they plan to publish (such as risk factors for response/non-response to HCV therapy among the group) which likely will provide some more interesting or novel information than does this descriptive study.

While the analysis of subjects who achieved liver-related endpoints does not present new information (that cirrhotics/those with lower cd4 are more likely to have liver related outcomes than non-cirrhotics) the analysis for other risk factors present within this large population is interesting and potentially could be highlighted more within the paper/abstract (rather than just the overall rate of HCV-related severe events).

Overall, I would say the description is clean, the eventual goals for the cohort are interesting but the descriptive data at this point does not yet provide us with any truly new scientific or epidemiologic information on HIV/HCV coinfection.

Minor essential revisions:

1 - Would provide references for the WHO QOL index and the CES-D depression index used in table 1.

2 - Would be useful in the discussion for the authors to describe the limitations of the cirrhosis algorithm (which could overcall the prevalence of cirrhosis within the cohort).

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'