Reviewer's report

Title: Acoustic Radiation Force Impulse (ARFI) and Transient Elastography (TE) for evaluation of liver fibrosis in HIV-HCV co-infected patients

Version: 3 Date: 10 March 2014

Reviewer: Jung-Ta Kao

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions:

The aim in this study is very important to identify the reliability of ARFI as compared to TE, non-invasive methods, in co-infected HCV and HIV patients. However, some questions need to be evaluated, including

1. The cases numbers, only 46 co-infected patients, are enrolled in this study, which could not prove the reliability of ARFI even that there is a good agreement as compared to TE.

2. Previous studies showed high accuracy between TE and ARFI in single HCV-infected patients. However, only F1 and F4 cases showed higher accordance rate than F2 and F3 cases in this study. However, the data in this study remain lower than that in single infection. Owing to the factor of co-infection or others? Which needs to be classified and liver biopsy also suggests correcting this difference.

3. In this study, there was no difference according GT and also presented good agreement between the two methods for predicting overall stages. Data? And the author needs to classify the association between viral loads and genotype with both methods.

4. Additionally, some important data such as prolonged time and Child-Pugh Classification, and statistical analysis etc. are not enough, which need to be further corrected.

- Discretionary Revisions

1. HCC patients need to be excluded in this study.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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