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: 25 March 2014

Reviewer: Grace Wong

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Please provide the information concerning the treatment to both HCV and HIV in the text as well as in Table 1. Any of these received antiviral therapy for HCV? What kind of therapy (e.g. SOC or DAA)? Was there any effect concerning antiviral therapy, treatment response and the performance TE/ARFI as well as the discordance between them? Similarly were all these patients receiving HAART? If not was there any effect concerning HAART and the performance of TE/ARFI?

2. Please provide the data concerning TE and ARFI (e.g. median LSM, IQR etc) in Table 1.

3. Please provide a scatterplot and perform Pearson’s correlation to demonstrate the relationship between the raw results of TE and ARFI.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Abstract: "Agreement was moderate for predicting significant fibrosis (#F2). " Please also provide the Kappa of this.

2. Results: "Ultrasound analysis allowed the detection of focal liver lesions in 5 cases, including 2 HCC (hepatocellular carcinoma). For the 3 other cases the liver lesions were benign." How were the natures of these few lesions confirmed? Please describe.

3. Please spell out all abbreviations in the footnote of Table 1 and 2.

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 have served as an advisory committee member for Otsuka and Gilead. I have also served as a speaker for Bristol-Myers Squibb, Echosens, Furui, Janssen
and Otsuka.

I have been the co-author of Victor DE LEDINGHEN in 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2013.