Reviewer's report

Title: Estrogen Receptor alpha Gene Polymorphisms and Risk of HBV-Related Acute Liver Failure in the Chinese Population

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Reviewer: Zheng Zeng

Reviewer's report:

Acute liver failure (ALF) is a big problem worldwide because of high mortality, especially in China. The pathogenesis of ALF is not well understood. The authors tried to study the ESR1 polymorphisms associated with ALF. It is a good idea, but needs to figure out the problems as below:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. How to define the asymptomatic HBV carriers (ASC)? The authors should explain more detail of include and exclude criteria. And also, in their study, most patients were HBeAg negative, why? Did these patients have experience of antiviral treatment or BCP and/or PreCore mutation?

2. In HBV-ALF group, what is/are the cause(s) for HBV-ALF? There are more patients with alcohol consumption in HBV-ALF than that in ASC group. Were the patients confection with other virus? The author should make logistic regression analysis with multiple factors, e.g. age, gender, alcohol, HBeAg, HBV DNA, gentype, haplotype, and so on.

3. On table 2, the notes showed ASC compare to HBV-LC group (also in text). What is the HBV-LC group?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.