Reviewer’s report

Title: Delay in renal replacement therapy initiation increases mortality in patients developing acute kidney injury after liver transplantation

Version: 1 Date: 26 May 2012

Reviewer: Chih-chung Shiao

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

#1. The title of this manuscript is “Delay in RRT increases mortality…”, but the study population included both those with and without RRT. The author should change the title or the study design.

#2. The description in the “Method” is inadequate, especially in the part of patients grouping. The authors should make it more clear. [Abstract-Methods; Main text-Method].

#3. The authors should make a more clear explanation for the reason why they took “RRT initiation” and “Cr peak” together as a main predictor variable. In my opinion, these are two different concepts.

#4. What are the indications for RRT initiation in this study?

#5. The current study found that patients receiving RRT after AKI lasting for 7 days or more had higher risk of death. The cutoff point of days seems a little longer than that revealed in other study (Bagshaw SM, J Crit Care 24: 129-140. Andrade L, Clin J Am Soc Nephrol 2: 739-744. Payen D, Crit Care 12: R74. Ostermann M, Crit Care 13: R175.). The authors should compared and explain the existing differences.

#6. The description about baseline data: “the cirrhosis of other etiologies accounted for other 61(19%) patients” [Results-2nd paragraph] can’t be found in the table 1. Please make it more clearly.

#7. Is the “indication for LTx” in the text the same as “Cause of liver failure” in the table 1? [Results-2nd paragraph] Please make a more clear description.

Minor Essential Revisions

#1. The Abbreviations are inconsistent and irregular throughout the whole manuscript.(ex: RRT, AKI, ICU, OLT/LTx/LT?? And once a abbreviation was introduced, it, but not the “full name”, should be kept on being used in the remaining manuscript).

#2. The fluency and readability of this manuscript is somewhat inadequate.
#3. The authors may consider to compare the 4 groups (AKI to RRT/within 1 wk; AKI to RRT/more than 1 wk; AKI to Cr peak/within 1 wk; AKI to Cr peak/more than 1 wk) in the tables 1 & 2.

#4. Why the authors perform the Cox method by using two different adjust models? [Table 3]

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

**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 !!