Reviewer's report

Title: Hepatitis B and C coinfection and HCV genotype variation on hepatocellular carcinoma development: a population-based cohort study

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Reviewer: M. Idrees

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RE: Hepatitis B and C coinfection and HCV genotype variation on hepatocellular carcinoma development: a population-based cohort study

Jin-Kyoung Oh and colleagues provided a comprehensive estimation of the risk of HCC according to HBV and HCV mono- and coinfection, using data from a population-based prospective cohort study in an area of Korea where HCC incidence is high.

Based on their findings the authors concluded that add to previous observations suggesting that HBV infection is by far the most important risk factors for HCC in HCC prevalent and HBV endemic areas. According to the researchers of this study investigations on the distribution of different HCV genotypes, as well as differences in HCC risk by HCV genotype and its coinfection with HBV, may significantly contribute to disease control, or to progresses in prevention, such as the development of an effective vaccine, or implementation of an HCC screening program, to improve disease outcome.

The description of the experimental work reflects a high grade of professionalism. Even though this subject and concomitant methodology/technology has been published broadly still the data presented in this study does add significantly to that body of literature. I am very impressed by the wealth of data and Accept this article for publication. The value of the data could even better be appreciated by the scientific community, if only a few modifications are done before publication in this esteemed journal. These are given below:

Title
1. Better to change the title of the article as this does not reflect the results exactly.

2. Background needs to be updated by incorporating the latest references (2011-12)

3. Methodology is too long.

4. What was the method used to select the study population?

5. Complete demographic characteristics of the enrolled should be given.

6. No inclusion or exclusion criteria for the study subjects have been given.
7. What is the prevalence rate of HCV & HBV in Korea?
8. What was the study design? That is not cleared.
6. Methodology is too long.
9. It is not mentioned in the results that what was sensitivity and specificity of the test methods used?

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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