Reviewer’s report

Title: Effect of delayed CNI-based immunosuppression with Advagraf(R) on liver function after MELD-based liver transplantation [IMUTECT]

Version: 2
Date: 22 July 2014
Reviewer: Vinay Kumaran

Reviewer’s report:

There are no essential revisions.

Discretionary revisions:

1. Is Advagraf the standard of care management for all patients undergoing liver transplantation at the authors' institution? If not then a control group with standard immunosuppression would seem appropriate.

2. It would be appropriate to look at clinically relevant measures of liver function in addition to the LiMax test: serum bilirubin, INR, serum transaminase peaks, volume of ascites etc.

3. It would be appropriate to document episodes of rejection. Simply using HLA-DR status would be less clinically relevant. Rejection would be unlikely in the first week in any case, given the quantum of immunosuppression being used.

4. The protocol for CMV prophylaxis as well as monitoring for CMV infection should be clarified.

5. How would kidney function be monitored?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.