Reviewer’s report

Title: Interleukin-22 predicts severity and death in advanced liver cirrhosis: A prospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 30 April 2012

Reviewer: Aldo J. Montano-Loza

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In this study Bernd Kronenberger, et al. analyzed 120 patients with cirrhosis and 40 healthy donors in order to determine the association of IL-22 with survival and hepatic complications. Interestingly, they found that systemic IL-22 was detectable in 74% of cirrhotic patients but only in 10% of healthy donors. Moreover, elevated levels of IL-22 were associated with higher frequency of hepatic decompensation (ascites, hepatorenal syndrome, and spontaneous bacterial peritonitis). Also, patients with elevated IL-22 had significantly reduced survival compared to patients with regular levels of IL-22.

The study has been carefully done and the paper is well written.

Minor comments:

1. Page 9, line 19, should be bilirubin, and not bilirubine.

2. Page 15, line 17, should be alanine aminotransferase (ALT), and not and aminotranspeptidase (ALT).

I have no major criticisms.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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