Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of clinical course and outcome of acute pancreatitis according to the two main etiologies: alcohol and gallstone

Version: 2 Date: 14 March 2015

Reviewer: Tsukasa Ikeura

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

To compare the clinical course, outcomes, and mortality between alcoholic and gallstone AP, it is important to determine the differences in the severity of AP on admission between these two conditions. The authors reported that, there were no significant differences in Ranson, BISAP, and APACHE-II scores within 48 hours after admission, whereas the prevalence of severe AP and the mortality were significantly higher in the alcohol group than in the biliary group. I am sure that these results indicated that there was no difference in the severity of AP on admission between alcoholic and gallstone AP, but the patients with alcoholic AP were more likely to become severe during the clinical course compared with gallstone AP. Authors should discuss more about this point.

Minor Essential Revisions

None.

Discretionary Revisions

In patients with gallstone pancreatitis, the severity, clinical course and prognosis could be associated with acute cholangitis and cholestasis. Recommend authors discuss this issue.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.