Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Raffaele Pezzilli

Reviewer's report:

The authors aimed to investigate the difference between the clinical course of alcoholic and gallstone acute pancreatitis in 126 patients of the originally 153 retrospectively selected. The between the two groups were the incidence of pseudocysts that was higher in alcohol group that in the biliary group, CTSI higher in the alcohol group tan in the biliary group, the organ failure persisting beyond 48 hours higher in the alcohol group than in the biliary group and mortality also higher in the alcohol the in the biliary group.

Major comments

1. My main concern is the retrospective nature of the study that suffers of a bias of selection.

2. The authors used the modified Atlanta criteria; however, in their series there are no walled-off necrosis and this should be explained.

3. In addition, according to the modified Atlanta criteria, the incidence of pseudocyst is lower than that of walled-off necrosis and the definition of pseudocyst is stricter than that of original Atlanta classification system. Please comment.

4. The high number of pseudocysts in alcoholic pancreatitis may be related to a chronic pancreatitis: how many attack of pancreatitis there were in the alcoholic group; in other words, there was a difference in recurrence of pancreatitis in the two groups of patients studied. In the follow-up how of alcoholic patients developed chronic pancreatitis.

5. Pseudocyst is a late complication of acute pancreatitis: the authors should report the time between the diagnosis of acute pancreatitis and the diagnosis of pseudocyst.

6. The authors stated "We analyzed amylase, lipase, and lipase/amylase ratio when two patients with renal failure in the biliary group were excluded." the sentence has no sense and should be reworded.

7. Why the authors evaluate the lipase/amylase ratio? There is evidence that this parameter is not useful to distinguish between alcoholic and non-alcoholic pancreatitis.

8. References should be updated and more paper should be cited according to accuracy of lipase/amylase ratio.
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

None to declare