Reviewer's report

Title: Utility of serum des-gamma-carboxyprothrombin in the diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma among Nigerians, a case-control study.

Version: 2 Date: 11 March 2015

Reviewer: Chad Hall

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

Minor Essential Revisions
None

Discretionary Revisions
1. The introduction could be supported with more background information on DCP. A few comments were made in the discussion, but more historical information about how it was found and its current use in clinical practice would help clarify the purpose of the study.

2. How were patients chosen for the benign liver disease population? More specifically, why include one patient with an amoebic abscess, one with a hepatic cyst and one with acute hepatitis? These processes do not have similar physiology to viral hepatitis and are less likely to result in cirrhosis. Does including these conditions alter the results of the control group?

3. What determined which imaging modality was used for patients in the study? Can more information be given about who received a CT or an ultrasound?

4. How has this study changed your clinical practice? Is DCP used regularly to diagnose your patients with HCC? Should DCP be used in conjunction with AFP? Comments on your clinical practice would be interesting in the discussion.

Level of interest: An exceptional article

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.