Reviewer’s report

Title: Diminished Accuracy of Biomarkers of Fibrosis in Low Replicative Chronic Hepatitis B

Version: 0 Date: 25 May 2017

Reviewer: Chang Seok Bang

Reviewer's report:
Thanks to authors for submitting interesting article to BMC gastroenterology.
Although this manuscript did not show any statistical errors and methodological pitfalls, the unmeasured bias is the most important barrier for the generalization of the results of this study. This kind of study is influenced by the spectrum bias (ex, how much significant fibrosis is included in the entire cohort). Therefore, sufficient number of participants and validation is needed.
Due to the retrospective nature of this study, I can only find statistical trend or association, not suitable for the generalization.
Liver fibrosis is the dynamic process and arbitrarily dividing patients into low replicative state and high replicative state with DNA level 20000 IU/mL might not correctly reflect the low viremia level.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
No
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If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
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Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
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