Reviewer’s report

Title: Prediction of Posthepatectomy Liver Failure Using Transient Elastography in Patients with Hepatitis B related Hepatocellular Carcinoma

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Reviewer: Quirino Lai

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BMGE-D-17-00376

Prediction of Posthepatectomy Liver Failure Using Transient Elastography in Patients with Hepatitis B related Hepatocellular Carcinoma

This is a retrospective study coming from China focused on the predictive role of elastography in 247 HCC patients undergoing liver resection in a setting of HBV infection.

The study is of interest, showing that the combination of liver function (INR) and elastography is able to well predict post-hepatectomy liver failure. The study needs attention. However, some comments should be addressed with the intent to improve the article quality.

The overall quality of English is poor, surely requiring a more detailed analysis done by a native speaker.

LSM is not explained the first time it is reported in the text.

In Tables, please be consistent with the number of decimals after the comma (I suggest to report one value), and with the percentages in case of dichotomic variables. At the end of the tables, all the abbreviations must be explained.

In Table 2, I think that "PLF" is "PHLF".

Page 10 line 15, please explain the term "ROI".

I think it should be of interest to report an additive table in which different ROC curves results are reported, comparing the role of elastography alone, INR alone, the combined INR-elastography score, and other variables like cirrhosis or entity of hepatectomy as predictors of liver failure.

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.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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