Reviewer’s report

Title: The Role of Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO) in Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) Patients evaluated using Controlled Attenuation Parameter (CAP) Transient Elastography (TE): A Tertiary Referral Center Experience

Version: 0 Date: 12 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Masahide Hamaguchi

Reviewer’s report:

Major comments

C Rinaldi A Lesmana et. al. performed a cross-sectional study in an university hospital in Jakarta to examine the relationship of SIBO with NAFLD.

This study encompasses an interesting topic, but some problems are involved in this manuscript.

Major comments

1. Authors claimed that there is no influence of SIBO in NAFLD development, although the study design was a cross-sectional study. Authors cannot claim the causal relationship of SIBO.

2. Authors claimed that SIBO plays an important role more in NAFLD patients with obesity. But authors didn't present the role of SIBO in NAFLD.

3. Authors examined SIBO in this study. But, they didn't present the definition of SIBO in this study. They just explained as follows; The presence of SIBO if there is an increase of hydrogen concentration ≥20 ppm from baseline within the first 120 minutes. General readers wants to know the detail of measurements.

4. Authors quantified Bifidobacteria, Lactobacillus, Bacteroides using SYBR Green Real time PCR. Authors should present the primer information. Moreover, authors should be clearly indicate the method that they set the reference for their Real time PCR, and how they quantify the targets.

5. Authors should provide the validation data for their quantification. General readers like to know the rate of concordance, when authors quantify target species two or more times in the same stool.

6. The study subjects are patients in the university hospital. I guess that many of them receive medication and the medication can effect SIBO. However, authors didn't examine the relationship of SIBO with medication.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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None.

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