Reviewer's report

Title: Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Manifestations in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases: A Referral Center Study

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Reviewer: Zhou Zejian

Reviewer's report:

In this retrospective study, the authors wanted to document the strong prevalence of manifestations of the liver, pancreas and biliary tree in patients with inflammatory bowel disease. This topic is novel but the application proposed is not so novel. It is difficult for us to understand the conclusions because of poor statistical approaches being used and statistical significant differences in respective groups does not prove (see Remark 1). Based on the statistical results conducted by the un-precise methods, the conclusions are overstated and unscientific and therefore this manuscript does not bring any meaningful knowledge. And beyond that, the following are furthermore detailed modifications and questions in this manuscript. Attached, please find referee comments/suggestions on your paper. It would be ideal if you could also draft a response to our referees stating what has been rectified in the revised copy as this will help speed up the finalization process.

1. The clinical data from this research is summarized as means and standard deviation. However, it is hard to obtain statistical significant data through above methods of data analysis. Hence, the clinical value of the study is almost meaningless. And the Chi-square test should be applied to compare the experimental and the control group.

2. It should be noted that the study scope of manifestations of the liver, pancreas and biliary tree is so broad that the highest association is difficult to distinguish. Due to aforesaid disease also can be resulted in the side effects of drugs, especially the hepatitis and drug-induced hepatotoxicity. There is no experimental comparison of the algorithm with previously known work, so it is impossible to judge whether the algorithm is an improvement on previous work. Further researches and experimental scheme should be conducted.

3. On the other side, more detailed explanation of methodology should be provided. Because of the inflammatory bowel disease and/or therapeutics may have an indeterminate influence on the patients and may cause the undesirable side effects. Therefore, it's important to take a careful observation of IBD development from the beginning. The manuscript ought to reset the criteria for inclusion and give more detailed about the criteria.

4. More importantly, this manuscript does not mention that the selected patients had signed the informed consent and this study had not been recommended by the ethics committee.
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.

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