Reviewer’s report

Title: The Magnitude and correlates of Esophageal Varices among newly diagnosed Cirrhotic Patients Undergoing Screening Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscope before incident bleeding in North-Western Tanzania; a Cross Sectional Study

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Reviewer: Yoshihiro Furuichi

Reviewer's report:

Comment to the authors

This paper was reported to clarify the rate of having esophageal varices in liver cirrhosis patients in Tanzania. I think this result is valuable for the patients in Tanzania. However, I can not find out the author's opinion for liver cirrhosis patients. Should they have an endoscopic examination or not? Please reconsider about some points pointed below.

[Major points]

1. Unfortunately, the impact is very low in this manuscript. Many readers already know that the presence of ascites, decrease of albumin and splenomegaly are the predictor of esophageal varices. In present paper, the authors described that 40% of liver cirrhosis patients potentially had the esophageal varices and described, "Bleeding is the deadly complication of esophageal varices which commonly occurs within the first two years of diagnosis. About the endoscopic screening for liver cirrhosis patient, please mention the author's opinion. I recommend the BMC gastroenterology readers to perform the endoscopic examination for liver cirrhosis patients.

2. In material and method section, the introduction of your hospital is not necessary for many readers. Please delete this description. (p4 lines4-10)

3. The description about the ultrasonographic features of liver cirrhosis is not necessary (p4 lines 16-20). And the amount of endoscopic examination in your hospital is not necessary either (lines23-24).

4. In the result section, the authors described thrombocytopenia was the factor associated with esophageal varices (p6, line 1). But this this description is not correct. In the table 2, the platelet counts more than 100 was the predictor of presence of esophageal varices. Therefore, 'thrombocytosis' (not thrombocytopenia) is the predictor.

5. The authors should also mention about the relation between PSDR and esophageal varices in the result section.
6. "Being married" was written as the predictive factor of esophageal varices. However, the reason was not described in this paper. Please discuss this factor more in detail.

7. There were many reports that spleen and liver elastography were predictor of esophageal varices existence. How about this value in present study?

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.

Unable to assess

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

Unable to assess

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:

Acceptable

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