Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 19 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Research Square

Reviewer's report:

STATISTICAL REVIEWER ASSESSMENT:

Is the study design appropriate for the research question (considering whether the analyzed population accurately reflects the design and whether you see any problems with control/comparison groups, e.g., likely confounders)?

Yes - overall design, population, and control groups are appropriate

Are methodologies adequate and well implemented (considering whether assumptions are addressed and whether analyses are robust)?

Yes - methodologies are adequate and well implemented, assumptions are addressed, analysis is robust

Are the analyses adequately communicated (considering whether reporting details are adequate and whether figures and tables are well labeled and described)?

No - there are minor issues

Does the interpretation accurately reflect the analyses without overstatement (considering whether limitations/bias are acknowledged and whether accurate descriptors, e.g., 'significant', are used)?

No - there are minor issues

Could an appropriately REVISED version of this work represent a statistically sound contribution?

Probably - with minor revisions
STATISTICAL REVIEWER COMMENTS:

This is a satisfactory revision, in which the bulk of my comments were addressed. The paper has much improved and the methods, results and their interpretation are now much more meaningful. I only have a few minor comments for the authors to consider.

Specific minor comments:

(1) Abstract/results: For the sensitivity and specificity values to make sense, the cutoffs used for continuous variables should be reported.

(2) Abstract/results: Obvious typo in the lower confidence limit for the age OR.

(3) Figure 2 does not add much and appears redundant. You should consider deleting fig.2.

(4) Page 6, first 2 lines: Report p and roc values rounded to 3 decimals.

(5) Page 8, 2nd paragraph: Report the adjusted ORs for both variables.

(6) Discussion/limitations. The cross sectional nature of the study induces an important limitation that was not acknowledged. Many predictor variables, such as thrombocytopenia, ascites, hepatorenal syndrome etc, are complications of liver cirrhosis and so is esophageal varices which was the outcome variable. The cross-sectional data collection in one point in time may have blurred the temporal sequence of events and the subsequent measures of associations and predictive performance.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

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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

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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