Reviewer's report

Title: Liver fibrosis and accelerated immune dysfunction (immunosenescence) among HIV-infected Russians with heavy alcohol consumption - An observational cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 24 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Xiaogang Xiang

Reviewer's report:

In this paper, the authors investigated the relationship between advanced liver fibrosis/cirrhosis and senescent T-cell phenotypes among recent drinkers with HIV. T cell phenotypes and liver fibrosis results at baseline were collected in two cohorts with 130 subjects. They found there were 25 cases (19%) with advanced liver fibrosis/cirrhosis and there was no significant association between advanced liver fibrosis/cirrhosis and senescent T cell phenotypes.

Major points:

1. The authors mentioned that advanced liver fibrosis/cirrhosis was defined as having FIB-4 score $\geq$3.25, APRI score $\geq$1.5 or Fibroscan result $\geq$10.5 kPa, however, the mean Fibroscan result in these advanced liver fibrosis/cirrhosis patients was only 8 kpa (the normal range is 2-7 kpa), is there any correlation between Fibroscan result and FIB-4 score or APRI score in these patients?

2. There are only 25 subjects of advanced liver fibrosis/cirrhosis in the two cohorts which is too small to make solid conclusion.

3. Among all the 25 alcohol consumers with HIV, what's the degrees and frequencies of alcohol consumption? Is there any influence on the T cell phenotypes?

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:

Acceptable

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