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: 1 Date: 03 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Zhou Zhou

Reviewer's report:

The current version of "Liver fibrosis and accelerated immune dysfunction (immunosenescence) among HIV-infected Russians with heavy alcohol consumption - An observational cross-sectional study" answered the previous major concerns sufficiently. Here are some more minor concerns to be addressed:

1. According to the flow cytometry strategy in the "Method" section, the authors did not use CD3 or any other method to gate T cells before gating out CD4 and CD8 T cells. Nor did the authors use any marker to gate out NKT cells. Given the authors are analyzing the HIV patients, the contaminating cells, including NKT cells and DCs among others, may have an in-negligible impact on the results. Moreover, the authors did not analyze cell concentration, but only cell percentage in the results. Cell concentration itself may have major impact to the outcome of liver fibrosis and the authors may have a different conclusion if cell concentration is analyzed. The authors should describe these method limitations in the manuscript.

2. The authors should include the explanation of log-transformed and back-transformed results in the manuscript.

3. The authors should point out that the race and ethnicity of the subjects in this study, even though they are possibly all Caucasian, for the convenience of the possible future meta-analysis.

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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