**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Anthropometric, Biochemical and Clinical Assessment of Malnutrition among Egyptian Children with Chronic Liver Diseases: A Single Institutional Cross-sectional Study

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 22 Apr 2019

**Reviewer:** Claudio Augusto Marroni

**Reviewer's report:**

The aim of this study was to evaluate nutritional changes in children with chronic hepatopathy from 6 months to 6 years. There is great dispersion in the age group, which may hinder the homogeneity of the evaluation.

Comparing two groups: the sick group with normal group.

The exclusion criteria are rigid, trying to achieve greater uniformity of the sick group.

In the clinical evaluation there is an adequate distribution of cases regarding gravity (CTP A, B and C)

They emphasize the importance of nutritional evaluation and its diagnosis in the prognosis of chronic hepatic disease. They point out the lack of a golden standard in the nutritional evaluation of cirrhotics. The evaluation should be broad and varied, contemplating a set of different methods, with different parameters, which complement each other, including the participation of laboratory results, which improves the evaluation as a whole.

The anthropometric parameters used, which provide us the Z score, pediatric peculiarity, give very different reports between the two groups, valuing measures assessed in the upper limbs (fat and muscle area), with a score Z -3 to -2. There is a statistical correlation between the anthropometric parameters and the laboratory tests, obviously, due to the present disease, which is aggravated in the clinical comparison (CTP C), emphasizing sarcopenia indirectly, but very importantly.

Anthropometric measures, even though they are not the most accurate, and evaluating a segment and not the global one, present advantages because they are simple, easy, fast, inexpensive, fast interpretation, acceptable, can have greater population coverage, and are replicable.

Methods such as EBI could be more scientific, however, in young children, there is a lack of standardization, probably why it was not used.

This is an unpublished study that diagnoses malnutrition in children with chronic hepatopathy and can thus serve as a parameter for supplementary and complementary therapeutic intervention aiming at a better quality of life and preparation for liver transplantation.
We recommend publishing the paper

**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

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

'I declare that I have no competing interests' below

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal