Reviewer's report

Title: Blood carnitine profiling on tandem mass spectrometry in liver cirrhotic patients

Version: 0 Date: 25 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Masahide Hamaguchi

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Comments to the Editor

Hisamitsu Miyaaki et al. performed a cross-sectional study to investigate the association of carnitine fractions with liver cirrhosis. This study encompasses an interesting topic and is worth to publish in this journal, but it has some problems.

1. Table 2. I guess (A~B) might mean the range. Please add the explanation for it

2. Line 47, Please reconsider to describe the detail of measurement.

3. Authors should explain biological mechanisms that levels of C0 and acylcarnitines increase in the condition of liver cirrhosis.

4. Authors didn't assess the physical activities, ADLs, oral intakes, or nutritions at the baseline of the study. Does these factors influence on C0 and acylcarnitines.

5. Authors should discuss clinical meanings of measuring C0 and acylcarnitines in blood. If C0 and acylcarnitines are associated with grade of liver cirrhosis, several useful biomarkers could predict the grade of liver cirrhosis. What is the advantage of measuring C0 and acylcarnitines in spite of conventional biomarkers for the grade of liver cirrhosis.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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