Reviewer's report

Title: Genotypic Distribution and Hepatic Fibrosis Among HIV/HCV Co-infected Individuals in Southern China: A Retrospective Cross-sectional Study

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Reviewer: Philipp Lutz

Reviewer's report:

Hu and colleagues present a retrospective study on the distribution of HCV genotypes and on fibrosis progression in HIV/HCV-coinfected patients in southern china.

The question is well defined. Concerning methodology, my major concern is the patient number: it is not clear why only 188 patients were selected out of patient data from 3 years and an outpatient service in which 3000 patients are seen monthly. For an epidemiological study and the potentially available patient data, this is a low number of patients. In addition, the authors mention in the inclusion criteria that only treatment-naïve patients were included, while table 3 shows also 37 patients on ART. For an epidemiological study on genotype distribution and fibrosis progression, it is not appropriate to exclude patients with signs of advanced disease like decompensated cirrhosis or severe cytopenia. This might be an important bias regarding the results concerning the interaction between genotype and fibrosis progression.

The authors compare mono- to coinfectected patients. Therefore, they should show patients characteristics for both cohorts separately in table 1. The difference in genotype distribution should be shown in a table, so that the numbers can be compared by the reader. Concerning fibrosis progression, it might be better to substitute this term by degree of fibrosis or prevalence of advanced fibrosis, because the authors do not show progression, but prevalence. Analysis of FIB-4 and APRI calculation should be mentioned in the text, not only FIB-4.

I do not have major concerns regarding the discussion and the writing in general. The limitations are stated clearly.

In summary this manuscript should be subjected to a major compulsory revision in my opinion.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.