Reviewer's report

Title: SERUM BTP CONCENTRATIONS ARE NOT AFFECTED BY HEPATIC DYSFUNCTION

Version: 0 Date: 05 Oct 2016

Reviewer: Rainer Woitas

Reviewer's report:

In liver cirrhosis BTP may serve as a more valid GFR surrogate since creatinine-based estimates usually overestimate GFR in cirrhotics. As cirrhosis might affect the level of BTP concentration this is an important issue. However, the study cohort is not suitable to clarify this issue. Basically, the number of patients with advanced cirrhosis is not sufficient. Only 2 patients had moderate to severe ascites and nine patients only exhibited an INR larger than 1.7.

Furthermore, the controls obviously represent a cohort of patients with renal insufficiency but are characterized poorly. And finally the approach to establish ratios of BTP/cystatin C and creatinine/cystatin C is not suitable to adjust for renal function.

Therefore, I strongly suggest to provide original data of the analytes in mg/l and µmol/l presented in conventional scatterplots and tables comprising means + 95% confidence intervals or medians+ranges. The patient and the control group need to be characterized more in detail to understand potential differences between the cohorts (e.g. elevated BTP, cystatin C and creatinine levels in the control cohort, what were the characteristics of those with advanced cirrhosis). By the way, what are control child-pugh A, B, C?

In summary the presented data are not convincing and do not support the hypothesis of the authors.
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.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

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 recommend additional statistical review

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Nothing to declare

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