Reviewer's report

Title: SERUM BTP CONCENTRATIONS ARE NOT AFFECTED BY HEPATIC DYSFUNCTION

Version: 0 Date: 28 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Amy Karger

Reviewer's report:

This paper is very clearly and well written. My only critique is that it fails to acknowledge a recent and very relevant publication: "Estimation of glomerular filtration rate in patients with cirrhosis by using new and conventional filtration markers and dimethylarginines" published by Ayse Mindikoglu et al. in Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology 2016;14:624-632. One of the conclusions of Mindikoglu's article (p. 626) is that there is no strong evidence that beta-trace protein was helpful for predicting mGFR in cirrhosis. They actually found that the estimating equation that had the best performance in cirrhosis patients (when looking at a variety of candidate filtration markers) was an equation that relied on creatinine and cystatin C only. Therefore I think it important that your manuscript be re-written and its importance placed in the context of this work by Mindikoglu. Additionally as an aside this paper by Mindikoglu states that beta-trace protein (as well as B2M, cystatin C and SDMA) is "unaffected by hepatic dysfunction" (p. 625); I did not find any data to support this statement in the references listed by Mindikoglu's paper, but since this is the primary hypothesis of your manuscript and your main conclusion, I would make doubly sure there has not been previously proven or published data demonstrating this, since it is stated in papers such as this as an already established fact.

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?
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Yes
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I am able to assess the statistics

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I currently serve as a principal investigator on collaborative projects with Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics; I oversee the laboratory testing of these projects but do not receive direct compensation. I also serve on the point-of-care testing committee for the College of American Pathologists.

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