Reviewer's report

**Title:** Treatment and survival of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis associated hepatocellular carcinoma

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**Reviewer:** Wei Jiang

**Reviewer's report:**

In this paper, the authors aimed to analyze the biological behavior, tumor characteristics, associated risk factors, treatment outcomes and overall survival of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH)-HCC. I think the perspective of this research is very good. However, the results of this paper are poor to trust and be applied in clinical works. The biggest problems are the large deviation of sample size and statistical methods.

Because NASH is not the main cause of HCC, the sample size (n=45, 4%) is very small when compared to other causes [hepatitis B (12%), hepatitis C (22%), alcoholic liver disease (37%), cryptogenic liver disease (17%), etc.]. In terms of such a small sample, the perspective study in the large sample of NASH to observe the incidence of NASH-HCC and discuss the associated risk factors and clinical characteristics may be more suitable. Even if the retrospective study was applied, the authors simply compared NASH-HCC group with Non-NASH –HCC group (96% of all HCC patients), the large deviation of sample size certainly existed and the reliability of the results was questionable. On the other hand, in terms of diverse causes of HCC, the incidence of any one of them was much higher than NASH. Meanwhile, the clinical characteristics, treatment outcomes and overall survival are much different between these causes of HCC. Therefore, to simply compare the mixed causes group with NASH-HCC, the statistical value is very low. These parameters between multiple groups and between every two groups should be compared and required.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests