Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical analysis of liver transplantation for hepatocellular and cholangiocellular carcinoma

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Reviewer: Neal Wilkinson

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Wu et al. reviewed 21 patients with cHCC-CC treated with OLT over a 11 year timeframe. They provide the OS and DFS for this group and examined concomitant features that may portent poor survival using univariate and multi-variate analysis.

They demonstrate an overall survival of 41% at five years which is significant achievement for this tumor type. Paper is well written from length, grammatical and syntax standpoint.

Questions:
1) In the discussion would the 1,3,5 yr survival groups be satisfactory to warrant OLT in this group- compare to HCC?
2) Why is the control group utilized? This subset of patient makes the reader wonder if you are comparing this "control" group the OLT group? When reading the methods I find this control group distracting and would simply say supportive care is ineffective and omit any working of "control group". Can you be sure that this control group has the same histology? Is a needle biopsy sufficient? Did autopsy confirm cHCC-CC?
3) Table 1 simply examines histopathological factors and survival yet every "significant" P value is unexpected. For example cirrhosis, lymph node metastasis both had results opposite of all published studies that I am familiar with from literature. Please explain how cirrhotic patients had improved survival: 9.0 no cirrhosis; 52 if cirrhotic; + LN met 54 vs LN neg 14? Is this real or can it be explained by small sample size or adverse surgical events? Elaborate.
4) Table 2 please explain why LN metastasis is now significant adverse factor- I suspect table 1 is incorrect but please explore/explain.

This is a very small case series with some unexplained findings that I think either have to be clearly explained or addressed. Statistical review is needed prior to publishing. I cannot recommend publication without serious revisions and explanations.

Neal Wilkinson