Reviewer’s report

Title: Late Presentation of Hepatitis B among Patients with Newly Diagnosed Hepatocellular Carcinoma: A National Cohort Study

Version: 0 Date: 21 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Akinobu Takaki

Reviewer’s report:

The authors investigated the social factors that correlated with late presentation with hepatitis B resulting in bad outcome of hepatocellular carcinoma. They revealed that patients with late presentation were more likely to be younger and in lower income percentiles. The physicians should take more care for these patients. While the contents are interesting, there are several points that still need to be addressed.

Major

1. Given that the younger and lower income was the characteristics for late presentation, the academic background should be included in the analysis.

2. The general hepatitis B carrier frequency in Korea should be added in Introduction or Discussion. The hepatitis B carrier status is affected by neonatal vaccine administration system. The universal vaccine system in Korea should be mentioned as well.

3. Given that the health coverage systems are different in different countries, the standard individual payment responsibility for regular hepatitis B management in Korea should be stated.

4. The reason for late presentation must be grouped to some types such as forgotten once, ignored every year for more than 10 years, or the primary care physician did not indicate the right was for the patients. There needs these analysis.

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?
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 am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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