Reviewer’s report

Title: Liver function changes after transarterial chemoembolization in US hepatocellular carcinoma patients: The LiverT study

Version: 0 Date: 11 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Irene Bargellini

Reviewer's report:

1) There is a high percentage of patients excluded from the analysis for several reasons, for instance for the lack of laboratory data. This could somehow imply that the patients included in the analysis were followed more closely for some clinical reason (more fragile patients?) and it could be the explanation for the higher percentage of liver function deterioration and the relatively high mortality rate reported in the study.

2) There is a substantial lack of important baseline characteristics (for instance tumor burden) and a certain number of patients included in the analysis are patients for whom it is know that TACE could have a detrimental effect (such as patients with portal vein thrombosis, ascites and so on).

3) I would delete the section regarding TARE since the data are limited to a low number of patients (78 patients out of an initial series of more than 790) that is not necessarily representative of what may happen after TARE in terms of liver function.

4) Please consider clarifying in the abstract that the study collects data from a final series of 572 patients instead of 3963 pts.

5) I would suggest modifying the discussion section according to the above mentioned points.

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

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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