Reviewer’s report

Title: Predictive value of aspartate aminotransferase-to-platelet ratio index for parenteral nutrition-associated cholestasis in infants with extremely low birth weight

Version: 0 Date: 17 Feb 2019

Reviewer: LUCA MAGGIO

Reviewer's report:

Background
Page 3, Line 59: …it means that we cannot fully prevent from developing PNAC by reducing certain risk factor alone… This sentence is useless and misleading

Methods
Page 4, Line 84: among the exclusion criteria the platelet congenital disorders should also be considered
Page 5, Line 101: why was the upper normal limit of AST value defined as 40 U/L ? Wai et al is not the reference 15
Page 5, Line 103: have the first, second and third week samples always been taken on the same day of the week?
Page 5, Line 105: Over the years, in addition to that of intravenous lipids, has any other protocol been modified ?
Page 5, Line 124: Omegavan is Omegaven

Results
Page 6, Line 145: Table 1: why means (median) and standard deviations were not shown? Is HUS head ultrasound ?
Page 6, Line 154: Figure 3, pivotal in the paper, is difficult to read and to be appreciated
Page 6, Line 157: Considering the numerous differences between the two groups why the results of multivariate logistic regression were not shown ? it would be very interesting to know the magnitude of each of the factors independently associated with PNAC and the total predictive value of the regression
Page 7, Line 160: the sentence seems to refer to each time points but Table 3 regards only the second week.

Page 7, Line 161: specificy is 91.8% in the text and 91.7% in Table 3; NPV is 78.3% in the text and 78.1% in Table 3.

Discussion

Page 7, Line 166: a commentary on the incidence of PNAC and on the risk factors identified in the study would be useful.

Page 9, Line 201-210: This paragraph should be made clearer and more concise. Moreover, many of the data reported are already in the section of the results.

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.

Yes

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

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
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