Reviewer’s report

Title: Impaired lung function is associated with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease independently of metabolic syndrome features in middle-aged and elderly Chinese

Version: 0 Date: 20 Nov 2016

Reviewer: Vaia Lambadiari

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study by Li Qin et al, addressing the correlation of impaired lung function to the presence of NAFLD. The main strength of the study is the rather large number of participants and the community based design. However there are some issues to be addressed:

1. the background section needs extensive editing. It repeats the same notion of inflammation but does not really assess NAFLD complicated pathophysiology at all.

2. The same stands for the discussion section. The pathophysiology of NAFLD is described superficially, and a possible causality just remains within the field of chronic inflammation. could genetic causes be involved? Could the two parameters (NAFLD and impaired lung function) just coincide within a population rather than present with an actual association? They are anyway both quite common. Is the population sample large enough and powered enough to clarify the latter?

3. do the authors have any data on the presence of high eosinophils or IgE concentration?

4. line 5-10, page 8: something is missing from the sentence

5. line 48, page 6: do the authors mean "lower" than "higher"? It doesn't make sense

6. page 3, line 8-11. Something is missing from the sentence

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.
Unable to assess

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:
Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

'I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal