Reviewer's report

Title: Liver cirrhosis mortality in 187 countries between 1980 and 2010: a systematic analysis

Version: 2 Date: 7 April 2014

Reviewer: Gennaro D'Amico

Reviewer's report:

A study of global mortality for liver cirrhosis between 1980 and 2010 is reported. The Authors must be acknowledged for the huge amount of work performed and huge amount of precious information provided either to nation level Health System Authorities or for World level Health Organizations.

I have only three minor comments pointing to a wider estimate of the global burden of the disease in terms of prevalence.

1. Exclusion of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and metabolic liver disease should be more extensively commented. In fact HCC develops mainly (85-90%) in cirrhosis and may be considered a complication of the disease; therefore deaths for HCC may be considered a further measure of the burden of cirrhosis. The exclusion of metabolic liver disease needs also clarification. The metabolic causes of liver disease which were excluded should be listed and the reason to exclude them should be explained. As an example liver steatosis is increasing in developed countries and steatohepatitis is becoming one of the most important causes of liver disease.

2. A comment on the global burden of liver cirrhosis could be added, trying to extrapolate data on the global prevalence of the disease, based on the estimated survival in compensated cirrhosis.

3. Information of which proportion of the total world population do the 187 included countries represent, should be added.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests