Reviewer’s report

Title: Zinc supplementation in patients with cirrhosis and hepatic encephalopathy: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 0 Date: 01 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Takashi Himoto

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer's comment

This study primarily focuses on the effects of zinc supplementation in patients with cirrhosis and hepatic encephalopathy. There were some interesting results in this study. However, the experimental design in the study was inappropriate. The conclusion was wrong in this issue. I regret to say that this issue denied for publication.

Major

#1. References #15 and #16 should be removed for meta-analysis. The treatment duration in both references was too short.

#2. Reference #27 should be removed for meta-analysis. Serum Zn levels in Zn supplemental group were not the same as those in control group.

#3. The effect of Zn supplementation was confirmed by only number connection test. However, no significant differences in digital symbol test and serum ammonia level were found between Zn and control groups. Therefore, the conclusion that "Zn supplementation may improve the neuro-cognitive function in patients with cirrhosis and hepatic encephalopathy" seems to be inappropriate.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of limited interest

Quality of written English
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Needs some language corrections before being published
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