

September 24, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 21546-review.doc).

Title: NON-INVASIVE ASSESSMENT OF LIVER FIBROSIS IN CHRONIC HEPATITIS C: BETWEEN PREDICTION/PREVENTION OF OUTCOMES AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS

Author: Cristina Stasi, Stefano Milani

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 21546

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

11 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) The “gray areas” of the FIB-4 test should be exactly described.

According to the reviewer, we exactly described the “gray areas” of the FIB-4

(2) Liver biopsies are the gold standard to assess liver fibrosis. A short overview should be given concerning the different procedures in biopsy preparation including trichrome stainings and immunostainings. The different fibrosis scores in use should be discussed.

As suggested, we added a short overview on the different procedures in biopsy preparation and on the different fibrosis scores.

(3) The pro-fibrotic factor TGF-beta should be addressed.

According to the reviewer, we addressed the role of TGF-beta in hepatic fibrogenesis.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

Cristina Stasi, MD, PhD
Stefano Milani, MD, PhD