

October 20, 2016

Dear Editor,

We thank you and the reviewers for giving us an opportunity to revise our manuscript.

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 02860653-review.doc).

Title: Evolving strategies for liver fibrosis staging: the non-invasive assessment

Author: Cristina Stasi, Stefano Milani

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 02860653

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

1 Point-by-point response to the reviewer's comments has been updated

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

- (1) I would suggest to provide clear emphasize on the following: - The discussion of non-invasive markers like FIB-4, aspartate aminotransferase (AST) to alanine aminotransferase (ALT) ratio (AAR), AST to platelet count ratio (APRI), and platelet count to spleen diameter (PC/SD) ratio), etc is very appreciated since they are definitely underestimated in the clinical set.

As suggested, we have emphasized this point

- (2) Focus on the evaluation of indirect signs for LF, like oesophageal varices (second phase cirrhosis) identification by computed tomography, EUS, ultrasound, dopplerography blood flow analysis, etc. - Serum markers in accordance to the imaging data is an important task.

As suggested, we have fosed on the evaluation of indirect signs for LF, like oesophageal varices by computed tomography, EUS, ultrasound, dopplerography blood flow analysis

- (2) What about studies regarding combining tools? - Add some critical and comparative analysis.

As suggested, we have added some critical and comparative analysis

(4) - Some tables and / or images would help to visualize impact of each method. I suggest to analyze the evidence of all existing non-invasive tools in regards to their level of evidence and clinical accessibility with suggesting generalized protocol and update existing algorithms for liver fibrosis in different kinds of pathology.

We have added 1 table that visualize impact of each method.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

Cristina Stasi

Stefano Milani