



January 9th, 2017

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 30650-Revised manuscript.doc).

Title: Concordance of non-invasive mechanical and serum tests for liver fibrosis evaluation in chronic hepatitis C

Author: Denise C Paranaguá-Vezozzo, Adriana Andrade, Daniel F C Mazo, Vinicius Nunes, Ana L Guedes, Taisa G Ragazzo, Renata Moutinho, Lucas S Nacif, Suzane K Ono, Venâncio A F Alves, Flair J Carrilho.

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 30650

We are grateful to the reviewer for the helpful comments on the original version of our manuscript. We have taken all these comments into account and submit, herewith, a revised version of our paper.

Please, find below our answers to all the queries. All changes are highlighted in yellow.

We hope that the revised version of our paper is now suitable for publication in *World Journal of Hepatology* and we look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Daniel Ferraz de Campos Mazo'.

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1- Reviewer 03665102

Comments to Authors:

1- This study is addressed to evaluate the diagnostic performance and the concordance of different noninvasive methods for the evaluation of liver fibrosis (APRI, FIB-4, transient elastography, ARFI) in 81 patients with chronic hepatitis C, most of them with biopsy-proven diagnosis. The authors concluded that FIB-4, ARFI and transient elastography are useful tests for the noninvasive assessment of liver fibrosis, with a good concordance. The study is not original, since it confirms literature data and scientific guidelines. Furthermore, a limitation of the study is the small sample size. Nevertheless, the study design is appropriate and the study population is well characterized.

Comments

1- I'm only questioning about some factors that could affect the accuracy of these noninvasive tests: the amount of alcohol consumed should be described, since a mixed etiology of liver damage (HCV + alcohol) could affect the study results, especially in terms of elastographic measurements.

Response:

The information regarding alcohol consumption was added in the results section, and patients were also analyzed individually, to improve clarity. We also addressed this topic in the discussion section.

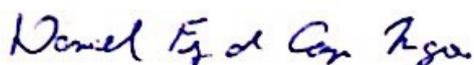
2- The same consideration may apply to the presence of steatosis (alcoholic or nonalcoholic) or the degree of inflammation, since their degree could affect the elastographic measurements. This information should be reported.

Response:

The information regarding liver inflammation was added in the results section, and patients were also analyzed individually. We also addressed this topic in the discussion section. We did not have data on the presence of liver steatosis.

Thank you again for considering our manuscript for publication in the *World Journal of Hepatology*.

Sincerely yours,



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