



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 45715

Title: Noninvasive evaluation of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: Current evidence and practice

Reviewer’s code: 01799105

Reviewer’s country: Turkey

Science editor: Ruo-Yu Ma

Date sent for review: 2019-01-18

Date reviewed: 2019-01-20

Review time: 13 Hours, 2 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer’s expertise on the topic of the manuscript:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> General
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a timely review of the validity of several non-invasive methods in NAFLD. It is concise and well-written. I have found only one typographical error stating NAFL as NFAL.



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INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 45715

Title: Noninvasive evaluation of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: Current evidence and practice

Reviewer’s code: 00199807

Reviewer’s country: Turkey

Science editor: Ruo-Yu Ma

Date sent for review: 2019-01-18

Date reviewed: 2019-01-21

Review time: 14 Hours, 3 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer’s expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear Editor, I reviewed the manuscript titled “Noninvasive evaluation for nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, nonalcoholic steatohepatitis, and associated fibrosis”. I think this review can be accepted after minor revisions that described below. 1. Some grammatical



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errors should be corrected: a. ".....gamma-glutamyl transferase γ " b. "...degrees of hepatic steatosis43[39]." c. "elastoghy" d. "imagin" e. "steatosis73, 74[69,70]." f. "cirrhosis110, 111[105,106]." g. "30 kg/m(2)[124]."

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 45715

Title: Noninvasive evaluation of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: Current evidence and practice

Reviewer’s code: 00007076

Reviewer’s country: Italy

Science editor: Ruo-Yu Ma

Date sent for review: 2019-01-18

Date reviewed: 2019-01-21

Review time: 17 Hours, 3 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer’s expertise on the topic of the manuscript:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> General
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The aim of this review article is the assess the validity and reliability of the several methods and scores suggested to be useful in the diagnosis of benign fatty liver (NAFLD) and in its progressive form (NASH). The need for a reliable noninvasive method to



assess both hepatic presence of either fat or collagen is clearly indicated by the authors who correctly stress the burden of this clinical entities in the population. The author must be congratulated for the extensive (though not fully complete) review of the literature. However, the Ms suffers several intrinsic weaknesses the authors must address before further consideration. 1. The different methods are listed without any critical interpretation of the advantage or limitation of the test. Indicating the AUROC, PPV and NPV is not sufficient to convey the message of what a clinician should rely on most important, what we still lack. 2. The inclusion of scores based on serum values with methods based on imaging makes the aim of the review too broad. It will be nice and appropriate having the Ms limited to methods base on serum-based tests. 3. Even more dispersive is the section dealing with the use of tests in assessing treatment od progression of the disorders.

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 45715

Title: Noninvasive evaluation of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: Current evidence and practice

Reviewer's code: 03023823

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Ruo-Yu Ma

Date sent for review: 2019-01-18

Date reviewed: 2019-01-22

Review time: 19 Hours, 4 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The article is overall well comprehensive but several relevant reference are not included: World J Hepatol. 2015 Nov 18;7(26):2664-75. Diabetes Res Clin Pract. 2018 Oct;144:144-152. Fig. 1 is probably overambitious and difficult to follow. Try to



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simplify it

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 45715

Title: Noninvasive evaluation of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: Current evidence and practice

Reviewer’s code: 03479773

Reviewer’s country: Japan

Science editor: Ruo-Yu Ma

Date sent for review: 2019-01-18

Date reviewed: 2019-01-23

Review time: 7 Hours, 5 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer’s expertise on the topic of the manuscript:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors aimed at reviewing the current noninvasive methods for assessing NAFLD in adults and the potential noninvasive biomarkers for tracking disease processes to reduce unnecessary biopsies in clinical practice. This is a well-organized review and the



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authors precisely discussed current clinical problems in assessing NAFLD. My comments are as follows. <Major> † As the authors mentioned in the abstract, are there any suggestions of effective algorithms for evaluating the stage of NAFLD by using non-invasive tools? † Are there any previous reports about the mortality rate of liver biopsies? † What is the prevalence of NAFLD in Asian countries? Is there a difference in the prevalence of NAFLD between the developed and developing countries? <Minor> † Abstract and Introduction: “NALFD” should be corrected to “NAFLD”.

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 45715

Title: Noninvasive evaluation of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: Current evidence and practice

Reviewer’s code: 02666537

Reviewer’s country: Netherlands

Science editor: Ruo-Yu Ma

Date sent for review: 2019-01-18

Date reviewed: 2019-01-30

Review time: 15 Hours, 12 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer’s expertise on the topic of the manuscript:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> General
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Review about noninvasive evaluation of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), and associated fibrosis. A brief introduction is followed by three sections dealing with diagnosis, biomarkers and imaging of NAFLD,



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NASH and associated fibrosis. What is not sufficiently recognized is that MRI already is the standard method for quantitative liver fat content assessment. Novel MRI applications for the study of elastography and diffusion as indications of fibrosis and cirrhosis are only mentioned very briefly, whereas the more outdated methods such as US and CT get too much focus. Some language editing is needed and the paper would become more attractive with some representative images acquired with new MRI methods such as MR elastography, diffusion weighted imaging and multivoxel MR spectroscopy. A paper about the latter method was published in WJG in 2010 (not cited). Specific comments. 1. Mention in the title that this is a review paper. Now it sounds as a patient study. 2. Introduction. State somewhere what the normal liver fat content is and that steatosis is fat > 5%. Include references. 3. Page 5, line 1: replace “urgent” by “preferable”. 4. Upgrade the sections about MRI with details and figures relating to novel techniques. There is a lot of uncited literature on DWI and MRE in fibrosis and cirrhosis as a function of disease stage. Please include this in order to get an more up to date review paper.

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[] Plagiarism

[Y] No