

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 48417

**Title:** Assessing significant fibrosis using imaging-based elastography in chronic hepatitis B patients: Pilot study

**Reviewer's code:** 03656580

**Reviewer's country:** China

**Science editor:** Ruo-Yu Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-04-19 03:56

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-04-19 08:44

**Review time:** 4 Hours

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 type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input 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

Authors investigated magnetic resonance elastography (MRE) and two-dimensional shear-wave elastography (2D-SWE) to identify significant fibrosis, and to compare their performance with that of serum-based indices in treatment-naïve CHB patients with



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borderline-normal ALT levels, who should be considered for initiation of antiviral therapy depending on significant fibrosis. The data demonstrated that MRE was a more accurate and noninvasive measurement for detecting significant fibrosis, compared to 2D-SWE as well as serum-based indices. However, some limitations in the MS, such as the liver biopsy as the reference standard for assessing liver fibrosis, assessed liver fibrosis for antiviral therapy decision making can't reflected hepatocyte inflammation, and relatively small sample size.

#### **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

##### ***Google Search:***

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

##### ***BPG Search:***

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 48417

**Title:** Assessing significant fibrosis using imaging-based elastography in chronic hepatitis B patients: Pilot study

**Reviewer's code:** 03475636

**Reviewer's country:** United States

**Science editor:** Ruo-Yu Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-04-19 16:45

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-04-20 14:51

**Review time:** 22 Hours

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	(High priority)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Manuscript is well and originally written. I have no competing interests. This is very informative and well-written manuscript that will establish homogeneous research in this topic of interest. Strongly suggest including the findings of AUC, PPV, and NPV



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into the result section in the abstract.

#### INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

##### *Google Search:*

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

##### *BPG Search:*

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 48417

**Title:** Assessing significant fibrosis using imaging-based elastography in chronic hepatitis B patients: Pilot study

**Reviewer's code:** 00032020

**Reviewer's country:** Japan

**Science editor:** Ruo-Yu Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-04-19 23:44

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-04-21 03:48

**Review time:** 1 Day and 4 Hours

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

Manuscript NO: 48417 Title: Assessing significant fibrosis using imaging-based elastography as a basis for anti-HBV treatment-decisions Manuscript Type: Observational Study Corresponding author: DR. Won Hyeok Choe To compare the

accuracy for diagnosis of hepatic fibrosis by serum-based index, 2D-SWE, and MRE, 63 treatment naïve CHB patients were enrolled to the present study. In conclusion, MRE was the most reliable modality for evaluation of hepatic fibrosis to make a decision of treatment initiation for CHB patients with high viral load and mild ALT elevation. Previous reports including systematic review clearly showed that MRE was superior as non-invasive diagnostic modality for hepatic fibrosis, compared to other methods. So, the present study confirmed the previous reports in treatment naïve CHB patients with mild ALT elevations. First of all, when did authors started MRE for patients with liver diseases in their hospital? One patient (1.5%) failed to MRE. Which characters were associated with MRE failure? Authors should add the comments in Discussion. Authors mentioned that one of the limitations was the sampling errors in hepatic biopsy. So, which fibrosis stage is the most reliable for treatment decision, by MER or hepatic biopsy?

## INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

### *Google Search:*

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ [ Y ] No

### *BPG Search:*

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ [ Y ] No

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 48417

**Title:** Assessing significant fibrosis using imaging-based elastography in chronic hepatitis B patients: Pilot study

**Reviewer's code:** 00182703

**Reviewer's country:** Romania

**Science editor:** Ruo-Yu Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-04-21 13:58

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-04-21 17:03

**Review time:** 3 Hours

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	(High priority)	<input checked="" 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 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 interesting and useful for clinicians, but its findings must be confirmed by extensive studies. The title of the article should mention that it is a pilot study (as it is made on only 63 patients). Statistical analysis is the best part of the article. References are

classical and new and reflect the state of knowledge in the field at present. There are some grammatical and non-grammatical errors that need to be corrected: can reduce the disease progression of (towards) HBV-related cirrhosis; ALT level s normal; HBeAg positive patients with > 20,000 IU/mL; HBeAg-negative patients with > 2,000 IU/mL; Fig. 1. Images of MRE (3A, 3B, 3C, 3D) and 2D-SWE (3E) (instead of 1A, 1B, and so on).

#### INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

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- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

##### *BPG Search:*

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 48417

**Title:** Assessing significant fibrosis using imaging-based elastography in chronic hepatitis B patients: Pilot study

**Reviewer's code:** 02535507

**Reviewer's country:** Italy

**Science editor:** Ruo-Yu Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-04-29 09:29

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-05-02 09:50

**Review time:** 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this observational study Park et al investigated magnetic resonance elastography (MRE) and two-dimensional shear wave elastography (2D-SWE) as a tool to assess liver fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B naïve to antiviral therapy. Liver biopsy was

considered as gold standard. They demonstrated that MRE had a better performance than 2D-SWE. Main comments: 1) The title should be changed since only diagnostic performances of SWE and MRE were evaluated, while there is no data about antiviral therapy. 2) Please specify which type of multivariate analysis was used. Logistic binomial? Linear regression? 3) In table 1 as well as in the text, please report the normality range of transaminases. 4) In the Methods section, Authors stated that they have calculated sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive value. However these results are lacking in the appropriate section (they have reported only AUC values). Please enclose such parameters since they are very important and will be greatly appreciated by the hepatologist audience. 5) In the Discussion it is important to underline some limitations of the study. For example, despite MRE has the best effectiveness, it is much more expensive than 2D-SWE and is available only in tertiary centers. 6) Patients selection: were subjects with complex cirrhosis etiology (e.g. HBV + HCV, HBV + HDV, HBV + alcohol) excluded?

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### *BPG Search:*

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[ Y ] No