

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

August 25, 2012



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5167-review.doc).

Title: Factors Correlating with Acoustic Radiation Force Impulse Elastography in Chronic Hepatitis C

Author: Toru Nishikawa, Senju Hashimoto, Naoto Kawabe, Masao Harata, Yoshifumi Nitta, Michihito Murao, Takuji Nakano, Yuko Mizuno, Hiroaki Shimazaki, Toshiki Kan, Kazunori Nakaoka, Yuka Takagawa, Masashi Ohki, Naohiro Ichino, Keisuke Osakabe, and Kentaro Yoshioka

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO:5167

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

Reviewer 00047453

Comment 1: I miss in the introduction and in the discussion a few words for the clinician, on the importance of assessing liver fibrosis (by any means) which is associated with prognosis and to identifying patients requiring antiviral treatment. Also on the different current noninvasive forms to assess liver fibrosis other than liver biopsy and their performance.

Response: We added the sentence, "The assessment of liver fibrosis stage is important to estimate prognosis and to identify the patients requiring antiviral treatment in chronic hepatitis C" in the introduction and in the discussion.

We added the sentences, "A lot of noninvasive methods to assess liver fibrosis stage other than liver biopsy are available, for example, ARFI, TE, real-time elastography^[23], and algorithm of serum fibrosis markers such as FibroTest^[24] and APRI^[25]. They provide good performances in estimation of fibrosis stage, while there are problems such as influence of inflammation. In the present study, factors other than fibrosis stage that affect ARFI were investigated in patients with chronic hepatitis C." in the discussion.

Comment 2: How many different examiners participated in ARFI measurements, and what has been the interobserver reproducibility in your group?

Response: We added the sentences, "The procedures were performed by two investigators (T.N. and H.S.) who were blind to clinical, serological and histological data. The correlation in Vs

measurement between two operators was good ($r = 0.934$)” in the materials and methods.

Comment 3: In page 10, second paragraph: it says:.....ARFI tended to be higher than in genotype 1..... It should say:ARFI tended to be higher in genotype 1.

Response: We omitted “than”.

Reviewer 00012386

Comment 1: In Discussion section, 7th paragraph, “Fibrosis stage.....”, please change to capital.

Response: We corrected the sentence indicated.

Comment 2: If possible, include “APRI” in Discussion section.

Response: We added “APRI” in the 1st paragraph of the discussion.

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

Comment 1: Give me the word version document about your article.

Response: We send the word version document.

Comment 2: Provide language certificate by professional English editing companies.

Response: Our article was reviewed by Enago for the English language review and was rewritten according to its suggestion as written in acknowledgment. Thus its grade should be class A.

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

Sincerely yours,



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