

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your referee's comments. We have read the comments of the reviewers and science editor, and found the referee's comments helpful. In this letter, we have responded to each comment, on a point-by-point basis and the manuscript have been revised accordingly. In the revised manuscript, most changes were highlighted.

Reviewers' comments:

**Reviewer #1:** Thank you very much for asking me to review this manuscript by SH Xu *et al.* In this study, the authors constructed two nomograms integrating clinical and ultrasonic indicators for determining the risk and severity of EV in patients with CHB related cirrhosis. Clinical and ultrasonic parameters which were closely related to EV risk and severity were screened out by univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses, and integrated into two nomograms, respectively. Both nomograms were internally and externally validated with calibration, C-index, ROC curve and DCA. Authors concluded that nomograms incorporating clinical and ultrasonic variables are efficient in noninvasively predicting the risk and severity of EV. The manuscript is well written and contents are novel and worth publication in WJG, which would add value to the current established knowledge and evidence. Please discuss in more detail predicting the risk and severity of EV in patients with CHB related cirrhosis.

**Answer:** According to your helpful comment, we have already added more detail in "Discussion" section about predicting the risk and severity of EV in patients with CHB related cirrhosis, which were highlighted in yellow.

**Reviewer #2:** "LFI-based Nomograms for identifying esophageal varices in chronic hepatitis B related cirrhosis" is an interesting article. Authors' findings

are not only innovative, but also important as this is the first study to construct nomograms integrating clinical and ultrasonic parameters to predict the risk and severity of EV. The authors nomograms showed a strong discriminative ability and a clinical net benefit compared with other indexes. These predictive nomograms are useful for clinicians to make preventive and therapeutic measures. Overall, it is a good work. However, I think some modifications concerning language and layout (not exactly compliant BPG guidelines) would be necessary before publication.

**Answer:** Thank you very much for your kind advice. We have adjusted our language and layout according to the guidelines and requirements for manuscript revision of retrospective study.

**Reviewer #3:** Title: LFI-based Nomograms for identifying esophageal varices in chronic hepatitis B related cirrhosis. The manuscript deals with an interesting and important argument, predict the risk and severity of EV in patients with CHB related cirrhosis. The topic has a clinical relevance since Both nomograms were more efficient than LFI, SPI, PSR, King's score and Lok index in training and validation cohorts, and can be clinically used for diagnosing EV and making clinical interventions. The manuscript is well written: the title reflects the main subject of the article, abstract and keywords well summarize the arguments. The methodology is described in detail and is well structured. The discussion is well articulated according to results and the authors have clearly underlined the limitations and drawbacks of the manuscript. A point of strength of the article in my opinion is also the nomogram, that could be a useful tool for clinicians to predict the treatment outcome, and thus contribute to identifying esophageal varices in chronic hepatitis B related cirrhosis. The tables/figures are representatives and of good quality. The manuscript cites appropriately the latest and authoritative references.

**Answer:** Thank you very much for your comments.

**Science editor:**

1. The authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s).

**Answer:** Thank you for your advice. We have already uploaded the approved grant application form(s) of our supportive foundations.

2. The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor.

**Answer:** Thank you very much for your comments. We uploaded all of the original pictures, some in format of PowerPoint.

3. The “Article Highlights” section is missing. Please add the “Article Highlights” section at the end of the main text.

**Answer:** As suggested by your advice, we added the “Article Highlights” section at the end of the main text which were highlighted in yellow.

Yours sincerely,

Hui-Xiong Xu