

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 64128

Title: Assessment of liver disease in patients with chronic hepatitis C and unhealthy alcohol use.

Reviewer's code: 03538691

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Associate Professor, Chief Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Spain

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Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-02-10 23:08

Reviewer performed review: 2021-02-19 01:57

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Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Page 9-page 11 **【Transient elastography】** These newest references could be added :

1) Serra-Burriel M, Graupera I, Torán P, et al . Transient elastography for screening of liver fibrosis: Cost-effectiveness analysis from six prospective cohorts in Europe and Asia. J Hepatol. 2019 Dec;71(6):1141-1151. 2)Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol : .2021 Feb 12;S1542-3565(21)001. doi: 10.1016/j.cgh.2021.02.021. Online ahead of print. Transient Elastography Accurately Screens for Compensated Advanced Chronic Liver Disease in Patients with Ongoing or Recent Alcohol Withdrawal 3. Prognostic value of multiparametric magnetic resonance imaging, transient elastography and blood-based fibrosis markers in patients with chronic liver disease. Liver Int. 2020 Jul 30. doi: 10.1111/liv.14625 4) Transient Elastography Accurately Screens for Compensated Advanced Chronic Liver Disease in Patients with Ongoing or Recent Alcohol Withdrawal. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2021 Feb Studies have shown that there is a good correlation between Virtual Touch Quantification (VTQ), and the degree of liver fibrosis! Many references can be added ,such as : 1)Bâldea V, Sporea I, Tudor A, et al Virtual Touch Quantification using Acoustic Radiation Force Impulse Imaging Technology versus Transient Elastography for the Noninvasive Assessment of Liver Fibrosis in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis B or C using Liver Biopsy as the Gold Standard. J Gastrointestin Liver Dis. 2020 Jun 3;29(2):181-190. 2) Sporea I, Mare R, Lupusoru R, et al Comparative study between four ultrasound Shear Waves Elastographic methods for liver fibrosis assessment. Med Ultrason. 2018 Aug 30;20(3):265-271. 3) Summers JA, Radhakrishnan M, Morris E, et al . Virtual Touch™ Quantification to Diagnose and Monitor Liver Fibrosis in Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C: A NICE Medical Technology Guidance. Appl Health Econ Health Policy. 2017 Apr;15(2):139-154 Elastography can also be used to judge the curative effect! For

example , the fibrosis score (IQR) declined to 5.2 kPa by week 12 after HCV treatment in patients with HIV-HCV Coinfection. The reference is following: Doyle MA, Lee T, Singer J, Crawley A, Klein M, Cooper C. Evaluation of Safety and Effectiveness of Elvitegravir/Cobicistat/Emtricitabine/Tenofovir Alafenamide Switch Followed by Ledipasvir/Sofosbuvir HCV Therapy in HIV-HCV Coinfection. Open Forum Infect Dis. 2019 Jul 1;6(7):ofz318. doi: 10.1093/ofid/ofz318. Although ultrasonic elastography has advantages, its disadvantages cannot be ignored! Ultrasound elastography also has its limitations. Many factors, such as thickness of subcutaneous fat, width of intercostal space, ascites and the patients' breathing will affect the results of transient elasticity measurement. Moreover, a lot of research is to explore the relationship between the transient elasticity of liver in puncture area and liver fibrosis. However, because the degree of liver fibrosis may exist uneven distribution between different hepatic segments, so it can not represent the degree of liver fibrosis of the whole liver. In addition, elastography measures the change of liver stiffness caused by fibrosis, not fibrosis itself, which are not completely the same thing. Therefore, non fibrosis diseases such as liver congestion, acute hepatitis, fatty liver and so on, maybe cause the change of liver stiffness, so they will Influence judgment which is the real cirrhosis. Page 11

【 Controlled attenuation parameter 】 This new reference could be added: Aynur Unalp-Arida , Constance E Ruhl .Transient elastography assessed hepatic steatosis and fibrosis are associated with body composition in the United States. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol . 2021 Feb 4;S1542-3565(21)00110-5.

Table 1. Studies that have used transient elastography in patients with alcohol-related liver disease. Author, year

Number of patients	Advanced liver fibrosis (≥ 3)	Sensitivity	Specificity	How
could “ transient elastography “ diagnose alcohol-related liver disease ? Where does “ Specificity “ come from ? For example: how to differentiate the hyperechoic area in liver on ultrasound between alcohol-drinking and high-fat diet? Compared with				



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hepatitis C, hepatitis B is more common in some eastern countries. How to make differential diagnosis with elastography? So, the author needs to provide more references !! 【Table 2. Studies that used non-patented indices to estimate liver fibrosis in patients with HCV infection and unhealthy alcohol use.】 APRI* What is APRI ? What does the asterisk indicate?

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 64128

Title: Assessment of liver disease in patients with chronic hepatitis C and unhealthy alcohol use.

Reviewer's code: 05424290

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MBBS, MD

Professional title: Doctor, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: India

Author's Country/Territory: Spain

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Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I would like to thank authors for extensive review of assessment of liver disease in chronic hepatitis C patients with alcohol use. They have reviewed the literature in an elaborative manner and rightly said that association of alcohol results in faster progression of liver disease in CHC patients. They have also raised the important issue of association of HCV infection in alcohol abuse. They may include criteria of significant alcohol intake as described in different guidelines like AASLD, EASL etc. And they may also explain the unhealthy alcohol use in terms of amount, type and duration etc.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Associate Professor, Chief Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Spain

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Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ru Fan

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Reviewer performed review: 2021-03-13 15:21

Review time: 1 Day

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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no comments