

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

Manuscript NO: 59622

Title: Production and Activity of Metalloproteinases during Liver Fibrosis Progression of Chronic Hepatitis C patients

Reviewer's code: 03198584

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Mexico

Manuscript submission date: 2020-10-02

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-11-23 09:28

Reviewer performed review: 2020-11-24 12:31

Review time: 1 Day and 3 Hours

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 Grade E: Do not publish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
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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

This work evaluated the role of MMPs in the pathophysiology of liver fibrosis in CHC patients. It was revealed that the regulation of MMP's can be served as possible therapeutic targets for improving novel strategies to reverse liver fibrosis in CHC. The experimental design is reasonable and the work is worthy of further study. There are only some small questions: 1. If the number of samples can be expanded, the evaluation of data may be more convincing. 2. I am confused about the statistical analysis in the Figures, because usually we use the way of * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Please check all the related results. 3. As was mentioned, the concentration and activity of MMPs, especially MMP-7, could be complementary indicators in the diagnosis of advanced fibrosis, does it mean it could be served as a diagnosis biomarker of advanced fibrosis?

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

Manuscript NO: 59622

Title: Production and Activity of Metalloproteinases during Liver Fibrosis Progression of Chronic Hepatitis C patients

Reviewer's code: 04089095

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Mexico

Manuscript submission date: 2020-10-02

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-11-22 12:43

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Review time: 7 Days and 22 Hours

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input 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

In this manuscript, the author conducted a series of experiments to evaluate the serum concentration and proteolytic capacity of MMP-2, -7, and -9 in CHC patients, according to fibrosis progression. This paper is written smoothly with clear thinking, but there are some minor problems: 1. CHC patients were categorized in fibrosis grades through FibroTest and/or FibroScanASA. FibroTest and/or FibroScanASA, it is best to attach a table to explain. 2. In line 21 of page 5, “has” should be changed to “have”. 3. In line 20 on page 6, “suggest” should be changed to “suggested”. 4. In line 24 of page 10, “area” should be changed to “areas”. 5. On page 12, “Mean patient age was between 55 and 60 years and the BMI was higher in F3”. May be wrong? From Table 2, F4 was higher. 6. On page 12, ROC values >0.7 were considered acceptable. The results showed that MMP-7 was not effective for distinguishing F0, F1, and F2 (Figure 4A). May be involved F3? 7. In the final “discussion” part, the results obtained in Table 1 and Table 2 were not discussed. Overall, I think this article has certain innovation, but there are also some problems. I think this article needs to be reviewed again after revision.