

February, 22, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (16259 – edited)

Title: Liver ultrasound elastography - More than staging the disease

Author: George Sebastian Gherlan, MD, PhD

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 16259

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

Reviewer No. 00032726 - Thank you very much for your comments and suggestions

1. The ascites detected by ultrasound elastography was mentioned in the abstract, but there was no detailed illustration in the main text. 2. illustrate table could be used to summarize the efficiency of ultrasound elastography in predicting liver disease. 3. The structure of the paragraphs needs to be polished. 4. There are numerous grammatical & typing errors in the main text.

Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer as follows:

- 1 Abstract was corrected – I removed “ascites” from the abstract because actually, there is no need to use elastography to predict ascites
2. Table has been added to summarize the studies
3. I reviewed again the structure of the paragraphs
4. I have checked again the text for grammatical and typing errors and corrected as needed

Reviewer No. 02861019 - Thank you very much for your comments and suggestions and also for the appreciation

Dear Dr. Gherlan, I have read with great interest Your Editorial entitled “Liver ultrasound elastography – more than staging the disease”. The manuscript is concise, well written and focused on the main argument. The text could induce in the reader little confusion about the difference between “transient elastography” and “ultrasound elastography”; I suggest to consider together all the different techniques for elastography measurement and to specify each time the technique evaluated in the study. in my opinion, also the limitation of liver elastography have to be described (presence of ascites, obesity, inconclusive data); some technical characteristics of the devices have to be cited (at least the difference between LSM performed using Fibroscan and US software); The data reported on the usefulness of spleen stiffness measurement are insufficient; Colecchia A. et al demonstrated that SS is able to predict not only the presence of PH and EV but also the development of decompensation in cirrhotic patients. I suggest to include the two original article and also a recent meta-analysis about

SS and portal hypertension [Colecchia A et al Gastroenterology 2012; Colecchia A J Hepatol 2014; Singh S Clin Gastroenterology and Hepatology 2014]. The large amount of data briefly reported in the editorial could create some confusion; I suggest to include a single table, reporting the results of different studies in different settings. This should clarify the manuscript presentation. The discussion do not add any new perspective in this field; this editorial is just a brief overview on the clinical application of liver ultrasound elastography.

1. The difference between TE and ARFI has been explained
2. I tried to disambiguate the difference between "ultrasound elastography" and "transient elastography"
3. The limitations of the elastography have been mentioned in the text.
4. Table has been added to summarize the studies

Thank you again for publishing my manuscript in the *World Journal of Hepatology*

Sincerely yours,

22.02.2015

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