

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

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Dear Sirs,.

Thank you for your clear and thoughtful comments, which are very much appreciated in order to improve the quality of this review article, in part based on our own studies, research and practice. We agree that we need to focus the article better towards the implications of the topics addressed, which, as we indicate in the title, are also challenges for the hepatologists, related to the features of the disease we have to manage and to the new and emerging tools.

In greater detail, we have answered all your suggestions and very kind criticisms, modifying – in red characters – the text that will be downloaded as a file “revised manuscript”.

1. In ABSTRACT and CONCLUSION part, it is to be suggested that author should clearly indicated the study conclusion, and to be mentioned how the study is useful for the practical purposes.

A. Thank you for this suggestion. Both in the abstract and in the conclusion, we have written more explicitly our conclusions on the tools described, and the practical application which are foreseeable or warranted.

Some of the techniques and tests described are already suitable for more widespread clinical application, as it is the case with ultrasound-based liver diagnostics, but others, such as urinary metabonomics, require a period of critical evaluation or development to take them from the research arena to clinical practice.

2. Table 2 could add some details, such as disease, the clinical significance or value etc. In figure 5 and figure 6, the legend should be more detailed also.

A. Thank you for your attention. Regarding table 2 now is more detailed that all the quoted articles refers to hepatocellular carcinoma — . Legend of Figure 5 and Figure 6 are have some further contextual information, in order to improve the understanding of the information provided –

3. Please check the spelling and format, such as REFERENCES 17,19,20,23,24,26,44, 50, 53.

Thank you for your attention. We have now rechecked spelling and format of all the manuscript, with particular care for the sentences of the references you are kindly indicating and which are now quoted according to the Journals recommendations.

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