

Dear Editor

Thank you and the Reviewers for the constructive review. We have revised the manuscript as suggested and attached the required documents. All comments raised by you and the Reviewers have been addressed in a point-to-point manner, and all revisions and edits have also been highlighted in red font.

We are re-submitting the revised manuscript for consideration of publication in your esteemed journal. The English manuscript was proofread and edited Medjaden Biosciences Limited.

Best regards

LX Qin, M.D.

P.S. We do apologize that we are unable to do CrossCheck analysis or Google Scholar search as we do have no access to these two online tools. Could the Editor please perform these two analyses on behalf of us?

To the Editor

1. Animal care and use statement

Response: All procedures involving animals were reviewed and approved by the Animal Research Committee at Beijing Friendship Hospital, Capital Medical University.

2. Audio core tip:

Response: The text and audio core tip have been attached as suggested.

3. Please reformat all the reference numbers (superscript with square brackets). Please check throughout. Normal line space is required. Please check throughout. Thank you!

Response: The reference labels have been revised as suggested throughout the manuscript.

4. Please provide the "Highlighted contents" here, which is a necessary content. See the requirements as follows:

Response: The comments have been added as suggested.

5. Please add PubMed citation numbers and DOI citation to the reference list and list all authors. Please revise throughout. For those references that have not been indexed by PubMed, a printed copy of the first page of the full reference should be submitted.

Response: The PMID AND DOI have been added as suggested.

6. Please provide separate files of each panel, thank you!

Response: Figures for each panel have been uploaded separately.

To Reviewer 1

1. In the present study, the authors evaluated the correlation of shear wave elastography with liver fibrosis histology and liver function reserve. In general, the manuscript is well-written and the methodology is acceptable. Although, the correlation of SWE in patients of various liver conditions have been extensively handled in the literature, this study throws lights for the first time on its correlation with quantitative liver function reserve measurements obtained by the lidocaine metabolite MEGX test. Therefore, I would highly recommend this manuscript for publication provided the authors would incorporate the required images.

Response: Thank you for your constructive review and compliment.

To Reviewer 2

1. Interesting paper and topic! Some points, however need revising: several objectives are proposed (and therefore, several variables and comparisons) which seems excessive for the very small sample size. The primary end-point was directed at establishing correlation between SWE and liver function in severe fibrosis/cirrhotic patients; however, a canine model may not be thoroughly representative, and, what is more, only 9 canine subjects acquired severe fibrosis/cirrhosis: this may cause an over-fitting of test results and comparisons. I would suggest dividing subjects in two groups: no/minimal fibrosis or severe fibrosis/cirrhosis and re-calculating correlation test. Also, in the discussion section, no mention has been made to previous evidence or published basic papers regarding the validity of SWE utilization in canine models, likewise regarding liver function test, which would be ideal since the authors suggest applying their results in patients.

Response: We do acknowledge that inadequate statistical power was the major limitation of this study due to a small sample size. However, as a pilot study, the present work aimed to evaluate the correlation of non-invasive SWE with liver histology and function reserve. It is less desired to divide liver fibrosis into no/minimal fibrosis or severe fibrosis/cirrhosis as F0-4 is well known for its compromised accuracy for evaluation of liver disease. We have mentioned previous reports regarding experimental models.

To Reviewer 3

1. Dear Editor, I have read through the manuscript and we think that something should be better outlined: - The authors can discuss the paper from Barone M et al. Gastroenterol Res Pract. 2015;2015:682174.

Response: It has been well documented for correlation of LSM with liver histology. However, the present pilot work aimed to evaluate the correlation of SWE LSM with liver histology and especially liver function reserve.

