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Dear Professor Jin-Xin Kong
Science Editor
World Journal of Hepatology

Thank you for your correspondence regarding our manuscript entitled **"Egg consumption and risk of Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD)".** We have taken each critique and comment very seriously, and now submit a revised version in response to the reviewers' comments.

As instructed, we hereby submit a point-by-point response to the reviewers' comments and a revised paper with changes highlighted.

Once again, thank you for inviting us to respond to the reviewers' comments and revise our manuscript.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr.Azita Hekmatdoost

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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 29805

Title: Egg consumption and risk of Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD)

Reviewer's code: 00036318

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting paper evaluating the association between egg consumption and NAFLD. **1)** The authors should add more details on the criteria used to diagnose NAFLD. **2)** Moreover, they should comment on the finding that moderate egg consumption was associated with NAFLD whereas higher was not**.** **3)** Language editing is also needed.

RESPONSE TO REVIEWER (00036318)

1) **RESPONSE:** Thanks for your precious comment; details are provided on the first paragraph of Materials and Methods as follow:

The cases were patients with NAFLD, which was diagnosed by a gastroenterologist according to the presence of hepatic steatosis in Ultrasound exam within previous month, and referred to our clinics to be examined by Fibroscan®, and the Fibroscan results showed a Controlled Attenuation Parameter (CAP) score of more than 263, and fibrosis score of more than 7.

2) **RESPONSE:** Thanks for your precious comment; it was discussed at the second paragraph of discussion as follow:

An unexpected finding of the present study was that more than 4 eggs consumption per week was not significantly associated with risk of NAFLD. This may be explained by the fact that nutritional factors are correlated with each

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other, and determining of the effect of particular nutrients or particular foods on a risk factor is difficult. The effects of egg cholesterol on serum cholesterol concentrations depends on the content of individuals' diet specially the fiber content of it [43, 44]. It is possible that those who ate more than 4 eggs per week, consumed it in mixed dishes containing vegetables, which reduces the absorption of cholesterol. Thus, we suggest that future studies assess the type of dishes with egg to find the possible interactions of different constituent of them.

3) RESPONSE: Thanks for your precious comment; the manuscript was edited by a native English speaker.

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Reviewer's code: 02860618

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The paper by Azita Hekmatdoost is a case-control study demonstrating that consumption of 2 to 4 eggs per week is associated to NAFLD. **1)** I suggest to detail the diagnostic criteria for NAFLD in the methods (US? Biopsy?). **2)** Moreover, the discussion does not consider a recently published paper by Garcés-Rimón M et al. (PLoS ONE 2016), which may be considered for launching hypothesis on the reduced risk for NAFLD in higher egg consumption. **3)** Multivariate analysis data may be also represented by a forest plot. **4)** Finally, the manuscript needs to be revised by an English native speaker.

RESPONSE TO REVIEWER (02860618)

1) **RESPONSE:** Thanks for your precious comment; details are provided on the first paragraph of Materials and Methods as follow:

The cases were patients with NAFLD, which was diagnosed by a gastroenterologist according to the presence of hepatic steatosis in Ultrasound exam within previous month, and referred to our clinics to be examined by Fibroscan®, and the Fibroscan results showed a Controlled Attenuation Parameter (CAP) score of more than 263, and fibrosis score of more than 7.

2) RESPONSE: Thanks for your precious comment; This paper was discussed as the reference number 42.

3) RESPONSE: Thanks for your precious comment; multivariate analysis data has been represented by a forest plot.

4) RESPONSE: Thanks for your precious comment; the manuscript was edited by a native English speaker.