

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 34042

**Title:** Serum angiotensin-converting enzyme level for evaluating significant fibrosis in chronic hepatitis B

**Reviewer's code:** 03476635

**Reviewer's country:** Italy

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-03-23

**Date reviewed:** 2017-03-25

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

To: Editorial board World Journal of Gastroenterology Title: "Serum angiotensin-converting enzyme level for evaluating significant fibrosis in chronic hepatitis B". Dear Editor, I read through this manuscript and I think that: - Were the patients on ACE inhibitors treatment? I mean, did the authors excluded all the hypertensive patients or at least only those were on ACE inhibitors treatment? - How many patients did the authors exclude? - Please include a flow chart of the study. - What about alcohol fibrosis? Please discuss such confounding factors which was not so fairly assessed. - Please discuss the role of ST2/IL33 in such a context. Please consider the paper from Ciccone MM et al. Molecules. 2013 Dec 11;18(12):15314-28.

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 34042

**Title:** Serum angiotensin-converting enzyme level for evaluating significant fibrosis in chronic hepatitis B

**Reviewer's code:** 03537407

**Reviewer's country:** Germany

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-03-23

**Date reviewed:** 2017-03-27

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors describe the use of Serum ACE Levels as a biomarker for HBV related liver fibrosis in a series of 70 human patients. Overall, the study is well planned and results are presented clearly. The Topic is of interest as non-invasive biomarkers esp for early stage fibrosis are still lacking. In the Abstract, 90 patients are mentioned to be enrolled into the study, although actually on 70 were included. The authors should make this Statement clearer in the Abstract and correct the Patient numbers accordingly (it only becomes clear in the results' section). What is the difference between data shown in Fig 2A and 2B?

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 34042

**Title:** Serum angiotensin-converting enzyme level for evaluating significant fibrosis in chronic hepatitis B

**Reviewer's code:** 03536939

**Reviewer's country:** Hungary

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-03-23

**Date reviewed:** 2017-04-03

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this article, the authors present an impressive analysis for fibrosis stage determination using a measurement of serum angiotensin converting enzyme being indicative of portal hypertension in chronic hepatitis B infection without hepatic steatosis. The sensitivity of the test discriminating F0-F1 from F2-F3-F4 proved to be higher than that of APRI test. The authors present a thorough, informative and well-structured article. I have only a very few minor comments: 1. It might be important to know how levels of hyaluronic acid, type 4 collagen 7S and P-III-P were determined in serum samples of the patients. Nevertheless, it does not have to be mentioned if these levels are measured in a similar routine procedure all over the world. I am just not aware of this. 2. I found a mistyping in the legend of Fig. 3: the number for both p values is 0.01. Although this might be true only for 'a' and I think 0.05 could be the value for the 'b'. 3. Could the authors find a rational to present not only the average in Table 1 for the most important values related to fibrosis but show the values also separately for F0, F1, F2, F3 and F4 patients groups?



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4. I wonder how the data could look like when using Ishak scores instead of Metavir?  
Have the authors try this one as well?

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 34042

**Title:** Serum angiotensin-converting enzyme level for evaluating significant fibrosis in chronic hepatitis B

**Reviewer's code:** 03322697

**Reviewer's country:** Turkey

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-03-23

**Date reviewed:** 2017-04-10

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
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## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Although this study is interested, several revisions are needed. 1) A major concern is that prospective evaluation was not performed in this study. Therefore, it is difficult to conclude that serum angiotensin-converting enzyme level is a reliable marker of disease progression especially associated with liver fibrosis. 2) In abstract, the authors should clarify the number of patients who were evaluated for the study. 3) In discussion section, paragraph 1.: "...antiviral therapies with nucleos(t)ide analogs (NAs), including lamivudine, adefovir, entecavir, and tenofovir [27-34]. ..." these sentences seems not to be necessary, so this section can be removed from the paper. 4) What is the difference between data shown in Fig 2A and 2B? 5) References is too long. Please shorten it. 6) English language should be corrected. Some sentences and statements are confusing. The syntax and grammar should be corrected by an English editor.