

**Manuscript number:37870**

**Type: Case control study**

**Title: Serum IL-34 level can be an indicator of liver fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B virus infection**

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Dear reviewers:

Thank you very much for yours attentions and the evaluations and comments on our Manuscript "Serum IL-34 level can be an indicator of liver fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B virus infection". We have revised the manuscript according to yours kind advices and the detailed suggestions. We apologize to the reviewers' question about combining diagnosis to enhanced diagnostic accuracy, because this article is just a preliminary study of our task and the current experimental data is insufficient to complete the regression analysis of combining diagnosis. However, we will increase the kind of experimental index associated with liver fibrosis and enlarge the sample size in our follow-up studies in order to obtain a greater breakthrough on the clinical application of IL-34 in the diagnosis of liver fibrosis. We sincerely hope this manuscript will be finally acceptable to be published on the World Journal of Gastroenterology. Thanks very much for all yours help and looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards

Sincerely yours