



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7901 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 501,
Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA
Telephone: +1-925-223-8242
Fax: +1-925-223-8243
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https:// www.wjgnet.com

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 37870

Title: Serum IL-34 level can be an indicator of liver fibrosis in patients with chronic HBV infection

Reviewer's code: 01407353

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Ya-Juan Ma

Date sent for review: 2018-01-22

Date reviewed: 2018-01-31

Review time: 9 Days

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Here Wang YQ et al. evaluated serum IL-34 as a possible marker of liver fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B. IL-34 was already established as a good marker of fibrosis in the context of NAFLD and hepatitis C, but data concerning hepatitis B were missing. I have only one minor point: IL-34 levels were found to predict severe liver fibrosis better than FIB-4 but similarly to liver stiffness and other fibrosis scores. Did Authors test the possibility to combine IL-34 with any of other scores and/or with any clinical variable in order to obtain a new "score" with enhanced diagnostic accuracy? In other terms, can Author extend on the clinical utility of dosing IL-34 rather than providing only proof of concept that it performs the same as other clinical scores or as liver stiffness measurement?