



**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 47004

**Title:** Performance of common imaging techniques vs serum biomarkers to assess fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B: A systematic review and meta-analysis

**Reviewer's code:** 00070577

**Reviewer's country:** Japan

**Science editor:** Ying Dou

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-04-26 16:24

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-04-26 16:40

**Review time:** 1 Hour

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The authors perform meta-analysis to evaluate the advanced stage fibrosis using FIB-4, ARFI, Fibrosca, MRE. There are several weak points that this paper do not analyze the relationship with nucleotide analogue, HCC etc. However, they analyzed many papers,



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thus it might be relatively sufficient.

#### INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

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- No

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- No



**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 47004

**Title:** Performance of common imaging techniques vs serum biomarkers to assess fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B: A systematic review and meta-analysis

**Reviewer’s code:** 00032933

**Reviewer’s country:** Taiwan

**Science editor:** Ying Dou

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-04-26 05:53

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-05-01 02:16

**Review time:** 4 Days and 20 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer’s expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

A systematic search for APRI, ARFI, FIB-4, LSM and MRE for predicting significant fibrosis on chronic HBV infection was done. This meta-analysis included 81 studies for carefully examined. They concluded that all these five methods have attained an



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acceptable level of diagnostic accuracy. Imaging techniques showed obvious advantages in prediction of HBV-related significant fibrosis than serological markers. Comments: 1. The reason for select HBV series in this study is unclear in the introduction. Please make a brief description on inflammation and fibrosis mechanisms of HBV, as compare with other etiologies. 2. The investigators made an extensive literature search but deceived to report significant fibrosis only. Why severe fibrosis and cirrhosis were not reported should be discussed. 3. Inflammation is the most important factor for the poor performance of non-invasive diagnosis of liver fibrosis in chronic HBV infection. The authors neither mention ALT level during the studies selection process in the methodology section, nor consideration ALT level in the result section. 4. According to the results, ARFI seems to be the 2nd best modality for predicting mod. Fibrosis. However, in the conclusion only LSM was recommended. This need to be clarified.

#### **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

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**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 47004

**Title:** Performance of common imaging techniques vs serum biomarkers to assess fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B: A systematic review and meta-analysis

**Reviewer’s code:** 02527808

**Reviewer’s country:** Egypt

**Science editor:** Ying Dou

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-04-28 01:01

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-05-08 01:59

**Review time:** 10 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer’s expertise on the topic of the manuscript:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> General
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The article is interesting and important in the field of non invasive diagnosis of liver fibrosis but some items were missed for example the role of diffusion MRI imaging in the diagnosis of liver fibrosis as many articles discuss this role in children and adults



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e.g Razek AA, Abdalla A, Omran E, Fathy A, Zalata K. Diagnosis and quantification of hepatic fibrosis in children with diffusion weighted MR imaging. *Eur J Radiol* 2011; 78(1): 129-134 Kanematsu M, Goshima S, Watanabe H, Kondo H, Kawada H, Noda Y, Moriyama N. Diffusion/perfusion MR imaging of the liver: practice, challenges, and future. *Magnetic Resonance in Medical Sciences* 2012; 11(3): 151-161 Sandrasegaran et al2009 Soylu et al2010 etc. even was used to predict portal hypertension and oesophageal varcies Razek AA, Massoud SM, Azziz MR,et al EM. Prediction of esophageal varices in cirrhotic patients with apparent diffusion coefficient of the spleen. *Abdominal imaging* 2015; 40(6): 1465-1469 Sandrasegaran et al2009 Soylu et al2010 As regard non invasive biomarkers many biomarkers were missed especially the most recent one like micro RNA and their role in hepatic fibrosis Huang C, Zheng JM, Cheng Q, Yu KK, Ling QX, Chen MQ, Li N. Serum microRNA-29 levels correlate with disease progression in patients with chronic hepatitis B virus infection. *Journal of Digestive Diseases* 2014; 15(11): 614-621 Tarek Besheer, Hatem Elalfy, Mohamed Abd El-Maksoud, et al Diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging and micro-RNA in the diagnosis of hepatic fibrosis in chronic hepatitis C virus . March 2019,*World Journal of Gastroenterology* 25(11):1366-1377. At least you must compare these results with the results of meta analysis.

## **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

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