



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 49426

Title: Liver stiffness and serum markers for excluding high-risk varices in patients who do not meet Baveno VI criteria

Reviewer's code: 00071066

Reviewer's country: Egypt

Science editor: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-05-30 06:20

Reviewer performed review: 2019-06-02 09:25

Review time: 3 Days and 3 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input checked="" 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 Grade E: Do not publish	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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" 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 manuscript titled: "Liver stiffness measurement and serum markers of liver fibrosis for excluding high-risk varices in patients who do not meet Baveno VI criteria" is well-written. The aim is to avoid unnecessary costly procedure of gastroscopy when



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possible without missing high risk varices. The authors gave clear definitions for the Baveno VI, grading of varices and the various liver stiffness markers. The aim was stated clearly. The methods were detailed to fulfill the aim. However, few statements have to be re-phrased to for clarity. In material and methods: "All the patients with compensated liver cirrhosis who did not meet the Baveno VI criteria underwent gastroscopy were considered." This statement needs re-phrasing. In Results: page 12, AMELD needs to be changed to A MELD. In Discussion: However, the performance of serum markers of liver fibrosis is contested regarding EV or HRV prediction.^{8,19,31} . This sentence needs to be made more clear. In discussion: The different prevalence rates of HRV in these two groups may be a possible explanation, as the prevalence in the patients with ALT and TBil <2ULN (34.1%) was significantly higher compared to that in patients with ALT or TBil ≥2ULN (14.3%). Indeed, previous studies reported that the utility of serum markers of liver fibrosis in predicting EV or HRV are greatly affected by the prevalence.^{29,33,34} The previous statement needs to be discussed with better explanation to why HRV are more prevalent with less inflammation. Although the Results were so complex as the negative predictive value of 100% was tested for all variables and with different stratifications, however, I congratulate the authors on the clarity of Figure 1, the algorithm is crystal clear. I also enjoyed reading the Limitations which very elegantly stated.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 49426

Title: Liver stiffness and serum markers for excluding high-risk varices in patients who do not meet Baveno VI criteria

Reviewer's code: 00069814

Reviewer's country: Egypt

Science editor: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-05-30 08:21

Reviewer performed review: 2019-06-06 06:25

Review time: 6 Days and 22 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input 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

interesting study. but small number of patients and retrospective as you mentioned in the discussion section



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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 49426

Title: Liver stiffness and serum markers for excluding high-risk varices in patients who do not meet Baveno VI criteria

Reviewer’s code: 00050424

Reviewer’s country: Greece

Science editor: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-05-30 16:58

Reviewer performed review: 2019-06-06 21:08

Review time: 7 Days and 4 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input checked="" 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 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
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It is an interesting study although retrospective. The number of patients is small but all patients suffered from HBV cirrhosis. I wonder whether the findings could be applied to patients with cirrhosis of other etiologies.



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