

To Editor

World Journal of Hepatology

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20 February 2020

Dear Editor,

RE: Response to Reviewer's Queries for our Submission

We thank the editorial team and reviewer for their time and efforts to review our manuscript. We are appreciative of the comments provided to improve upon the content of the submission and are delighted that the comments are positive to note that our manuscript is in line with the scope of the journal and data presented demonstrates sufficiency in scientific content. The queries raised in the review have been addressed and underlined for easy references. A point to point response to the queries are also provided below.

Response to Reviewer (extracts from the full report)

The topic of this review falls within the scope of "World Journal of Hepatology". The manuscript entitled "Usefulness of M2BPGi in Non-invasive Probing Liver Disease in the Vietnamese Population" by Thuy Thi Thu Pham et al. is devoted to the study of the diagnostic value of a new biomarker Mac2 binding protein glycosylation isomer (M2BPGi) for the diagnosis and monitoring of liver fibrosis. The authors presented data on the correlation between M2BPGi and noninvasive indicators (transient elastography, FIB-4, APRI) for various stages of liver fibrosis. A significant drawback of the work is the lack of histological data on the study of the liver in the examined patients.

Response: We thank the reviewer for the kind words and acknowledge the remarks that the manuscript is in line with the scope of the journal. We noted the query on histological data. We seek the reviewer's kind understanding that biopsy is seldom conducted in routine practice, which has largely been substituted by elastography and blood biomarkers. This is especially the case for patients who present with early liver disease. It is important for us that there is concordance among elastography and serum biomarkers to ensure a quick assessment of patients' conditions. That is the main objective of the current work and evaluation for M2BPGi. The results from the current study demonstrated significant concordance among different patient samples that show potential integration into existing clinical practice.

The Title of manuscript reflects the content of the article. The writing up of the abstract meets the journal requirements and reflects the content of all the parts of the manuscript. The introduction presents the literature data on the possibility of using M2BPGi to detect the stage of fibrosis in patients with liver

diseases. The all this gives sufficient information about the research objective Materials and methods. The study included 140 patients with liver disease to assess the various stages of fibrosis. It is necessary to describe and to add in a table 1 the number of patients separately for each nosological form studied (viral hepatitis B; viral hepatitis B with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease; viral hepatitis C; viral hepatitis C with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease; non-alcoholic fatty liver disease; liver damage of alcoholic etiology). It is necessary to present a clinical description of these groups.

Response: We thank the reviewer for going through each section in detail and are heartened that comments are positive. We noted the suggestion to provide more details about the patients in table 1. In the revised manuscript, this has been amended as requested by the reviewer.

Authors necessary specify the number of patients in the groups to figure 3. In table 1 and when describing the age of patients in the text it is necessary in addition to the median to give a range or present as $X \pm SD$. Table 1.

Response: We thank the reviewer for going through the presentation of the figures and table 1. As suggested by the reviewer, changes are made to reflect the number of patients in the groups (fig. 3); details about median age and the standard deviations (SD) are provided as well.

It is necessary to give the note for used abbreviations "Description" replace on "parameters". "Value" replace on "Parameters value". The authors use appropriate statistical methods. On page 5: the third line above "alanine transaminase (ALT)" replace on "alanine aminotransferase (ALT)". the eighth line above (in the formula) "ST" replace on "AST"

Response: We thank the reviewer for the kind suggestions to address the abbreviations used. These changes have been made as well in the revised manuscript.

Once again, thank you very much. We have addressed all the queries as suggested by the reviewer and hope that the revised manuscript meets the standards and quality of the journal. Please feel free to contact us if you have any further queries.

Have a nice day

Best Regards,

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Revision Review

The authors took into account all the comments of the reviewer and made corrections to the manuscript. The authors also explained the lack of morphological data in the manuscript. When conducting further studies it is necessary to plan a comparative analysis of the stages of fibrosis taking into account morphological data.

Response: We definitely agree with the reviewer on the collection of histological data in the future especially for advance stage patients where biopsy may still be required. As reflected in the first revision, this study was devised to draw parallelism with existing standard of care for patients to establish the use of M2BPGi as a novel non-invasive marker for liver disease. We will in future studies to incorporate histological data as well.

Best Regards,

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