

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 54521

Title: Computed tomography in evaluating esophageal varices in cirrhotic patients comparing with liver stiffness measurement and magnetic resonance: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Reviewer's code: 02650654

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-02-13

Reviewer chosen by: Le Zhang

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-02-18 08:13

Reviewer performed review: 2020-02-18 09:58

Review time: 1 Hour

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 Grade E: Do not publish		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

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I suggest to add that endoscopic can demonstrate associated gastroesophageal lesions, that increase the risk of varices to bleed. MR or CT angiographies cab be usefull to a complete study of the entire portal vein system , to discover ectopic varices, and also to get information about the intra-hepatic venous system.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

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- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 54521

Title: Computed tomography in evaluating esophageal varices in cirrhotic patients comparing with liver stiffness measurement and magnetic resonance: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Reviewer's code: 02575643

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: FRCS (Gen Surg), MD

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-02-13

Reviewer chosen by: Le Zhang

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-02-20 10:56

Reviewer performed review: 2020-02-20 11:48

Review time: 1 Hour

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
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<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting systematic review aimed to determine the overall accuracy and sensitivity of 3 non-invasive methods to diagnose esophageal varices and the risk of bleeding in patients with liver cirrhosis. The study is appropriate and timely. To determine with a non-invasive method the risk for bleeding of esophageal varices might have important clinical applications in daily practice. The study gives an overall view of the problem, and for sure does give clinical details which could be useful in making decisions in everyday practice. I have some points to address, which may help to give the paper a more significant clinical application. Minor Points. 1-The title is quite complex and difficult to understand. 2-The Authors should underline the fact that there was no direct comparison between the 3 non-invasive methods. The comparison was merely determined indirectly by the difference in accuracy in comparison to endoscopy for each method. This indirect comparison inevitably brings to a significant statistical bias. Major Points 1-Very few papers were included into the study in comparison to the many published papers on this subject. The reasons why some papers were included and others excluded should be more clearly specified. 2-The paper should give a better definition of the criteria used to assess the risk of bleeding at least for CT scan examination. This could be a valuable practical clinical point. It is possible that different criteria were used

in the reported studies about CT scan. 3-Bleeding of esophageal varices is quite a "generalized definition". At least for the papers describing the accuracy of CT scan, it may be convenient to specify the interval between CT scan and bleeding and somehow to define the entity of the bleeding and the clinical outcome. There is a significant difference between a minor bleeding self-resolving and an uncontrolled bleeding leading to death. Future Perspectives. The study is very important and interesting with significant practical applications. I suggest to include in a specific session papers which compared the 3 non-invasive methods (they are few but they exist). At the same time it could be interesting to analyze (or at least to mention in the paper) the possibility to identify in a multidimensional statistical method the simultaneous measurement of Liver Stiffness (by CT scan) and characteristics of esophageal varices by CT scan. There is the possibility that combining the results of these two measurements by CT scan, we could have a better idea of the overall risk for bleeding. CT scan of the esophageal varices may give a morphological evidence of a local risk, liver stiffness could give a general idea of the general conditions of the liver function, including an indirect evaluation of the probability of a valid coagulation system. All these observations of mine could transform the paper from a mere virtual observation into a practical guideline useful in everyday practice.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

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RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

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Title: Computed tomography in evaluating esophageal varices in cirrhotic patients comparing with liver stiffness measurement and magnetic resonance: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Reviewer's code: 02575643

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: FRCS (Gen Surg), MD

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-02-13

Reviewer chosen by: Ying Dou

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-03-25 07:57

Reviewer performed review: 2020-03-25 07:59

Review time: 1 Hour

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<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish		<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
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		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
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			<input type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The paper opens many questions, but still it is of interest to the readers

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