

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

Manuscript NO: 62259

Title: Leukocyte cell-derived chemotaxin-2 and fibroblast growth factor 21 in alcohol-induced liver cirrhosis

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03646555

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: FRACP, MBBS

Professional title: Attending Doctor, Lecturer, Staff Physician

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Australia

Author's Country/Territory: Poland

Manuscript submission date: 2021-01-04

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-06-20 04:54

Reviewer performed review: 2021-06-26 01:15

Review time: 5 Days and 20 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Peer-reviewer
statements**

Peer-Review: [☒] Anonymous [☐] Onymous

Conflicts-of-Interest: [☐] Yes [☒] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Overall a good study with a few issues: 1) In the abstract the authors state aim was to "to determine the concentration of LECT-2 in... relation to fibroblast growth factor 1 (FGF-1) and fibroblast growth factor 21 (FGF-21)" but the results of correlation analysis are not included in the discussion. 2) It is not really a "case-control study". My understanding of a case control study is that it is retrospective, looking at a group of cases and a group of controls (often matched for basic parameters like age and sex) and analysing the prevalence of prior antecedent risk factors. This study is better defined as a cross-sectional cohort study. 3) How was 'heavy alcohol consumption' defined in this study? 4) It would be helpful if the authors could have citations for NYHA and G2 heart failure and renal failure scores, for readers who may not be aware of this terminology. 5) The authors state that although there was a strong correlation between LECT-2 and cirrhosis progression, and a strong correlation between AGT and LECT-2, that there was no statistically significant correlation between AGT and cirrhosis progression in their study (despite there being physiological reasons for it to be so, as per their discussion). How can the authors explain this- is it just a matter of low study numbers and decreased power? 6) The sentence "The duration of alcohol abuse in the study group was on average 15.7 ± 8.2 years in the Pugh-Child A + B subgroup and 18.7 ± 8.3 years in the P-Ch C subgroup" does not belong in the discussion, but instead in the results. 7) What is FADL in the discussion? 8) The authors state that their findings show that "LECT2 may be used for the non-invasive diagnosis of alcohol-induced liver cirrhosis". However can they make statements as to whether this is specific to alcohol-induced cirrhosis, or whether it is more non-specific to all forms of cirrhosis?



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