

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS



December 19, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 6856-review.doc).

**Title:** Non-invasive diagnosis of liver fibrosis in chronic hepatitis C

**Author:** Leonardo de Lucca Schiavon, Janaína Luz Narciso-Schiavon, Roberto José de Carvalho-Filho

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6856

We would like to thank the reviewers for providing invaluable advices regarding our manuscript. We hope we will be able to address the comments properly. Changes appear underlined in the text.

Reviewer #1

1, They are advised to clarify that they are dealing with HCV hepatitis patients in their title.  
R. This review was a response to an invitation for a celebrating issue specifically about HCV infection. However, we do agree that this type of article can be found during searches outside its original context (pubmed search, for example). So, the title was changed to "Non-invasive diagnosis of liver fibrosis in chronic hepatitis C".

2, In Table.1, they discussed about running cost of each devices for liver fibrosis detection. The reviewer worries about their interpretation might make confusion. It seems very complicated which one costs higher. They are advised to make it clearer which way costs high in total.

R. We agree that the information in table 1 was somewhat confusing, so we decide to remove it from the table and to insert a new section (Cost-effectiveness of noninvasive markers of fibrosis).

3, They are advised to add abbreviation list in the main text.

R. An abbreviation list was inserted, as requested.

4, Their English writing is quite polished, and the reviewer found no critical problems on their grammar.

Reviewer #2

1. The liver biopsy is the gold standard for staging liver fibrosis. Could author provide some data that compared with the biopsy and serum biomarkers? Could you authors supply the relationship between the biopsy score and serum biomarkers?

R. We agree that liver biopsy remains the gold standard for liver fibrosis assessment. However, as we discussed in the paper, liver biopsy has several limitations and it is time move on to new strategies that allows a broader view of fibrosis and fibrogenesis. Several articles cited in the review compared serum biomarkers with liver biopsy, with variable degrees of agreement. In tables 2 and 3 we included some of the major studies comparing indirect (table 2) and direct (table 3) markers of fibrosis with liver biopsy.

2. To evaluate a prediction method, it is necessary to think out the economic factor. Could authors provide some economic data of the non-aggressive method, for example cost for detection.  
R. As suggested, a new section (Cost-effectiveness of noninvasive markers of fibrosis) was inserted concerning the economic factor.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Schiavon', with a stylized, cursive script.

Leonardo L. Schiavon, MD, PhD  
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Division of Gastroenterology