

Point by Point Reply

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: This is an essentially confirmatory work on the beneficial effects of the use of SGLT2 inhibitors vs other alternatives in the treatment of T2D and NAFLD. The cohort, although reduced, is quite consistent in the responses to these inhibitors (glyflozins). In addition, the authors provide data on inflammatory and ROS markers, as well as a validation of the extent of hepatic fibrosis (fibroscan). Although the novelty of this study is reduced, it may contribute to re-inforce studies on this field.

Reply: we thank the reviewer for his positive comments! We are glad that he appreciated our work.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: This is a very clinically significant work. The authors elucidated the effect of SGLT2-I on liver inflammation, fatty changes and liver fibrosis in T2DM patients with NAFLD through 24 weeks of clinical observation, but there are several issues that the authors need to pay attention to:

1) The results of the article figure1D showed that SGLT2-I had a positive effect on weight loss compared with baseline, but one study showed that 3-5% weight loss (diet, exercise, weight loss) improved liver steatosis in NAFLD patients without additional medication, so is there an additional non-pharmacological intervention effect during 6 months in patients taking the drug in this trial? (Effect of Weight Loss, Diet, Exercise, and Bariatric Surgery on Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease. Hannah WN Jr, Harrison SA Clin Liver Dis. 2016 May; 20 (2): 339-50.)

Reply: the point raised by the reviewer is of extreme importance. In an attempt to clarify whether reduced BMI was associated with improvement of non-invasive markers of liver steatosis and fibrosis, and circulating markers of oxidative stress, we performed a Pearson correlation test followed by linear regression. We only found a positive correlation between

BMI and Fatty Liver Index, but no other significant correlations. Regression analysis could not provide any significant results. Thus, we could conclude that there was no relationship between BMI reduction and the improvement of non-invasive markers of hepatic steatosis and fibrosis. Nevertheless, the discussion was expanded including the reference indicated by the reviewer (page 13, lines 13-15).

2) Whether PS matching is performed in the baseline analysis of SGLT2-I and the other group?

Reply: The small numbers in the groups prevented us from performing propensity score-matched analyses in this study, i.e., most cases were not evaluated if matching was undertaken.

3) It does not seem to be seen in the article whether there is a description of adverse drug events?

Reply: we reported that there were no side effects in both groups (page 9, line 13).