PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 85133

Title: Validation of the albumin-bilirubin score for identifying decompensation risk in patients with compensated cirrhosis

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03262644

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: FEBG, MD, PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Croatia

Author's Country/Territory: Thailand

Manuscript submission date: 2023-05-21

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-05-21 14:53

Reviewer performed review: 2023-06-05 08:26

Review time: 14 Days and 17 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [Y] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[ ] Yes [Y] No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I have reviewed this manuscript and I believe it is suitable for publication in WJGE. The authors evaluated ALBI score as the predictor of decompensation of patients with compensated liver cirrhosis over the median follow-up of 3 years. According to the results, worsening cathegory of ALBI score was associated with the increased risk of decompensation, with better predictive performance in comparison to other scores that were analyzed here. The only limitation is the small number of patients within the hiughest risk cathegory of ALBI score (6 patients), whereas the overall low risk of decompensation could be attributed to the fact that patients with viral hepatitis (more than 50% of all patients in this cohort) were treated by antiviral drugs. This should be commented by the authors in the revised version of the manuscript. My reccomendation is to accept the manuscript after the minor revision.

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 02544721

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: Doctor

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Thailand

Manuscript submission date: 2023-05-21

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-06-05 00:16

Reviewer performed review: 2023-06-09 01:41

Review time: 4 Days and 1 Hour

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [Y] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Good [Y] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [Y] Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Good [Y] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No scientific significance
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing [Y] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [Y] Rejection
Re-review	[ ] Yes [Y] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I am honored to have the opportunity to review this manuscript. This study by Navadurong et al. suggested that the ALBI score accurately identifies decompensation risk at 3 years follow-up in patients with compensated cirrhosis. Overall, the study was explored a novel assessment for decompensation risk in patients with compensated cirrhosis. However, several comments I need to address to make the study more suitable for publication. In 2015, Johnson et al. proposed the albumin-bilirubin (ALBI) grade as a new evidence-based approach for HCC. In 2017, Hiraoka et al. undertook a detailed analysis based on the results of a nationwide survey of 46,681 patients; they proposed that ALBI grade 2 be subdivided into ALBI grades 2a and 2b, correcting the distribution of patients across grades.   1. ALBI grade was applied for HCC, but the validation of the effectiveness of ALBI grade for cirrhosis was not sufficient. This grade was not invented by the authors. Firstly, the author should verify that albumin and bilirubin could be statistically significant prognostic variables for decompensation cirrhosis. Secondly, the author should construct a new grade by these two parameters and make a new assessment.   2. After conducting a new model, the author should compare it with

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conventional methods (Child-Pugh et al.). However, ALBI grade belongs to a category of continuous variable, and C-P score belongs to a category of categorical variable. These two cannot be placed in a diagram. 3. Was there any correlation between ALBI grade and C-P score? A more detailed and clear study design should be provided to outline the number of samples enrolled and the different cohorts distribution (training cohort and validation cohort). 4. Lack of standardization of writing obviously led to poor readability. For example, reference 1 was missed from this manuscript.

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Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 00068912

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: DSc, MD

Professional title: Full Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Russia

Author's Country/Territory: Thailand

Manuscript submission date: 2023-05-21

Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-07-06 12:51

Reviewer performed review: 2023-07-07 09:40

Review time: 20 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [Y] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No scientific significance
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [Y] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[ ] Yes [Y] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Navadurong et al. presented a retrospective cohort study analyzing the evaluation of ALBI as a predictor of decompensation in patients with compensated liver cirrhosis of various etiologies during a median follow-up of 3 years. The design of the study is well organized. The title, abstract and keywords correspond to the text of the article. Materials and methods are described quite fully and clearly. Correct methods of statistical processing of the obtained data were used. The authors refer appropriately to the recent and current references. The work presented by the authors is an original study performed on sufficient (123 patients) clinical material, which confirms the value of a simple and accessible ALBI indicator as a predictor of the development of liver cirrhosis decompensation in patients with chronic liver diseases. At the same time, the authors point out the existing limitations of the performed study, a small sample of patients (only 6 patients) of the high-risk group is discussed. Own data are correctly compared with the data presented in the scientific literature. The data obtained by the authors have important clinical significance. In the future, it is desirable to determine the prognostic value of the ALBI index in patients with various nosological conditions (for example, in

chronic liver diseases of viral etiology and cholestatic liver idamage).

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03034605

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MBBS, MCh, MD

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Attending Doctor, Chief Doctor, Consultant Physician-Scientist, Surgeon

Reviewer's Country/Territory: India

Author's Country/Territory: Thailand

Manuscript submission date: 2023-05-21

Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-07-02 12:18

Reviewer performed review: 2023-07-08 00:51

Review time: 5 Days and 12 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Good [Y] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No novelty

Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Good [Y] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No creativity or innovation
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Re-review	[ ] Yes [Y] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I would like to congratulate the authors for conducting this study. The study has been well conducted and the manuscript has been very well written. Only point is that it is already known that ALBI score is a good predictor of decompensation. My few comments are as follows: 1. The cause of decompensation in the study patients should be added. 2. How the patients with decompensation were treated? 3. Please also add the information about the survival outcomes of the patients.