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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

Manuscript NO: 89551

Title: Metabolomics in liver diseases: A novel alternative for liver biopsy ?

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 02842879
Position: Editorial Board
Academic degree: MD, PhD
Professional title: Chief Doctor, Professor
Reviewer's Country/Territory: China
Author's Country/Territory: Japan

Manuscript submission date: 2023-11-09

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-11-09 11:18

Reviewer performed review: 2023-11-19 02:33

Review time: 9 Days and 15 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Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [Y] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish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

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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) [ ] Accept (General priority) [Y] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[Y] Yes [ ] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The evaluation of HCV related liver fibrosis is very important. Although the noninvasive diagnostic investigations including the routine blood tests, transient elastography, MRI and ultrasonography are used in clinical works，the novel techniques are still needed to be developed. The author comment on the article titled “Metabolomics in chronic hepatitis C: Decoding fibrosis grading and underlying pathways (in press)” by Ferrasi et al. published in the recent issue of the World Journal of Hepatology. This editorial is quite new and interesting. Meanwhile, it is helpful to understand the potential role of the technique of metabolomics in the diagnosis of HCV-related liver fibrosis. However, the editorial mainly descripts the metabolome results on HCV related liver fibrosis, lacking the in-depth comparison between the recent study (Ref.19) and the previous results (Ref. 13-18) . Furthermore, the innovative explanation of the current research (Ref.19) and the potential values of these metabolome techniques are needed to be expounded.

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Reviewer's code: 04091933
Position: Editorial Board
Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor, Senior Researcher

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Russia

Author's Country/Territory: Japan

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Reviewer accepted review: 2023-11-20 07:50

Reviewer performed review: 2023-12-04 10:39

Review time: 14 Days and 2 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [Y] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing [ ] 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	[Y] Yes [ ] No
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous

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statements	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript is written on a current topic and contains a brief overview of studies on metabolomics in patients with chronic hepatitis C. The literature references provided are relevant, without self-citation (5%). The table is clear and reflects the main topic of the manuscript. However, there are 2 comments: 1. It is recommended to classify candidate biomarkers as chemical/biochemical compounds (for example, bile acids, dicarboxylic acids, hydroxycarboxylic acids and oxoacids, SCFA, amino acids, etc.) with a possible analysis of their origin (food, microbiota, endogenous metabolism) and a discussion of their potential role in liver fibrosis; 2. The table shows the results of various studies, including patients not only with fibrosis, but also with cirrhosis, so the table's title should be corrected, and the manuscript should discuss whether metabolomic markers of cirrhosis can be applicable in less severe fibrotic changes.