



Editorial Board of
World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Prof. Dr. med. Sebastian Mueller,
MD, PhD**

Professor of Medicine
Vice Head and Research Director
Department of Internal Medicine, Salem Medical Center and
Center for Alcohol Research, University of Heidelberg
Zeppelinstraße 11 – 33
69121 Heidelberg, Germany

Tel.: 06221 483 210

Fax.: 06221 483 494

sebastian.mueller@urz.uni-heidelberg.de

www.sebmueeller.com

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Dear Editor,

Many thanks for the invitation to contribute to “World Journal of Gastroenterology” and for considering a revised version of review (ID 00005648) entitled

“Non-invasive assessment of alcoholic liver disease”

Please find our point by point response below.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Mueller and Vanessa Rausch

Sebastian Mueller, MD, PhD
Salem Medical Center, University of Heidelberg
Zeppelinstraße 11 – 33, 69121 Heidelberg, Germany
Tel.: 06221 483 210
Fax.: 06221 484 494
Email: Sebastian.Mueller@urz.uni-heidelberg.de

Point by point response:

Reviewer 1

The review "Noninvasive assessment of patients with ALD" provides a very comprehensive review of current literature. This study is well-written, but this manuscript seems too long and complicated. So, I think that this manuscript can be significantly shortened for better reading. Also, I recommend that the author can discuss how we should use these various assessment tools in real clinical practice. Minor) 1. More Asian data can be described for balanced review.

We thank this reviewer for his very helpful comments on the manuscript. We have now significantly shortened the article for a better clarity (by more than 1500 words including some tables and figures). In contrast, we extended the detailed work up plan as requested. We now explain in more detail how the knowledge is transferred into clinical practice at the Salem Medical Center in the daily routine.

Minor 1) We included more Asian data for a balanced view.

Reviewer 2

This paper provides a very thorough, extensive, and timely review of the available studies evaluating the "noninvasive assessment of patients with ALD. This manuscript was well prepared; however, the paper is rather long and can be shortened for better readability. My only concern is the discussion of the data. I am missing a discussion about how this extensive knowledge can be applied into clinical practice. Easy, but detailed description regarding this issue can be further added. Minor 1. There are some spelling mistakes. 2. In some sentences, more references are required.

Many thanks for the very helpful comments. As mentioned above, we have now significantly shortened the article for a better clarity (by more than 1500 words and we removed figures 4 and 5 and table 6). Furthermore, we included a separate chapter suggesting how this knowledge can be applied to hospital routine with further discussion. A detailed description is already shown in Fig. 6.

Minor 1) We corrected the spelling mistakes.

Minor 2) We added more references to the manuscript.

Reviewer 3

Dear Editor I read with interest the paper "Non invasive assessment of patients with ALD" by Mueller et al in which a review of non invasive methods to perform diagnosis of liver disease were illustrated, in particular in alcohol related disease clinical setting. Major comments The paper is too long in particular from page 5 to page 12; these sections could be reduced and furthermore they are too scholastics. On the contrary the imaging technique section is superficial, in particular regarding ultrasound approach to liver cirrhosis diagnosis. Furthermore in the review the Authors always included their own experience, without adding any references. In particular there is no accepted paper regarding the Authors's experience. Moreover also almost all tables and figures were done according to Salem's experience.

We agree with this reviewer that a better readability could be obtained by shortening. In line with the other reviewers, we significantly shortened the manuscript especially pages 5-12 by 1500 words (see also above).

We do not agree with reviewer3 that such a review should not contain an update on novel advances from a single center that are routinely presented at international conferences or that are already used for international consortia to study ALD. We assume that we have been invited for this review to give the reader a comprehensive update even on the latest achievements. We also feel that we balanced well the view of other and also highlighted topics that are still controversially discussed.