

August 14th 2022

**PROFESSOR ANDRZEJ S TARNAWSKI, DSC, MD, PHD.
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
WORLD JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY**

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

Enclosed please find the revision of our manuscript entitled ***“Validation of a new index based on LDH, AST and ALT as a prognostic marker in patients with MAFLD and COVID-19”*** for its consideration for publication in World Journal of Gastroenterology. This is an invited manuscript (ID 04105237), as a part of the impact of COVID-19 and liver diseases.

REVIEWER #1

Thank you for this opportunity to review your work. This paper focuses on the prognostic performance of an index based on LDH and transaminases (AST / ALT) in patients with COVID-19 and MAFLD (LFN-COVID-19 index). There are limitations through justifications of the study. The paper still needs to add more information i.e., methods and conclusion (limitations, practical implications, and future direction).

1.- Thank you for the comments. We added the information in the corresponding section.

REVIEWER #2

Abstract In methods, please write “two” instead of “2”. Write a comma after “In the multivariate analysis” in results. Also, write the OR, CI, and p values for all associated factors. Introduction No comments. It was written perfectly. Methods, please write the protocol of management during that period and cite the protocol of available. please make a diagram for the validation process and write the number for each cohort in the diagram. Regarding patients, could you please write the criteria for categorizing patients according to the severity and cite the file if available online. Please write expand the abbreviation “LFN”; because it was firstly mentioned in the text. Split sample size for statistical analysis plan and make it in a different subheading. Results Please write results in subheading as follow: participants characteristics, biochemical tests, ...etc. Please write abbreviation for confidence interval as CI not IC. Regarding table 5, is it univariate or multivariate cox regression? and according to what you chose other variables? Conclusion Write it in a separate subheading.

- 1.- Thank you for your suggestions, we added the requested information to the abstract; Methods: we added the protocol of management, that basically was based on the recommendations provided by the WHO, before steroids were a standard of care for admitted patients.
- 2.- The diagram showing the validation process was included as figure 1.
- 3.- We expanded the abbreviation LFN: Liver Fibrosis and Nutrition Lab.
- 4.- The corresponding subheadings were added to the different sections of the manuscript, as well as the suggested changes.

We declare that there are no reasons for deviations, or any potential conflicts related to the nature of the manuscript. Also, we declare all included authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

We greatly appreciate all your help and efforts in considering our work in your journal. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

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