

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 32203

Title: Using APRI to reduce the need for FibroScan in liver fibrosis evaluation

Reviewer's code: 03537908

Reviewer's country: Thailand

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2016-12-29 16:45

Date reviewed: 2016-12-30 09:41

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Reviewer's report: The manuscript entitled "Using APRI to reduce the need for FibroScan in liver fibrosis evaluation" is a retrospective study evaluated the performance of APRI score against FibroScan in predicting the presence of fibrosis and proposed a new-cut off score of APRI as a screening tool. This study provides a good concept and enhances utilization of APRI score. Major Comments 1. Methods: There are some differences in the population of chronic hepatitis B and chronic hepatitis C. Some cases with chronic hepatitis C might have HCV-associated immune thrombocytopenia. These might affect the APRI score in the subgroup of CHC. Authors should also discuss this issue. 2. Methods: The number of cases (cases with biopsy assessment) is quite low. To conclude the new-cut off score of APRI, the authors should demonstrate in the method about the statistical analysis that this number is enough to conclude. 3. Results: The new-cut off score of APRI as a screening tool at the level of 0.5 seem to be useful to discriminate the advance fibrosis cases ($\geq F3$). However, this new-cut off level might miss some cases with significant fibrosis ($\geq F2$) which treatment might be indicated. The authors should address on this point. 4. Conclusions: "More importantly, the use of APRI score of 0.5 or more as a screening tool for FibroScan can reduce the need for FibroScan



BAISHIDENG PUBLISHING GROUP INC

8226 Regency Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA

Telephone: +1-925-223-8242

Fax: +1-925-223-8243

E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com

<http://www.wjgnet.com>

in 43%." This sentence might lead to overlook significant fibrosis ($\geq F2$). Minor Comments 1. Table 1 and 2: There is lack of unit in each row, eg. kPa, U/L. Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests.

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 32203

Title: Using APRI to reduce the need for FibroScan in liver fibrosis evaluation

Reviewer's code: 02861252

Reviewer's country: Turkey

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2016-12-29 16:45

Date reviewed: 2017-01-09 03:09

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Good work...

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 32203

Title: Using APRI to reduce the need for FibroScan in liver fibrosis evaluation

Reviewer's code: 02861055

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2016-12-29 16:45

Date reviewed: 2017-01-10 02:05

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		BPG Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The submitted manuscript by Wong et al. is a retrospective study evaluating the use of APRI in the assessment of liver fibrosis. The Authors propose a APRI cut-off value of 0.5 to select patient for further evaluation with Fibroscan. The study emphasizes the possible use of an economical score in the evaluation of patients. However, some issues need to be addressed before coming to final conclusions. - The Authors propose a new cut-off value for APRI score based on a retrospective study. This aspect should be underlined in the discussion of the manuscript. - The new cut-off value of 0.5 misses a substantial proportion of patients with significant fibrosis (F2 patients). How the Authors envision the stadiation of these patients? This is an important aspect and needs to be discussed by the Authors. - In Figure 1 the Authors should specify if the evaluations refers to advanced fibrosis (as stated in the text) or cirrhosis (as presented in the figure) - Please provide the unit of each parameter of Table 1.