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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS manuscript NO: 28307
Title: Serum ceruloplasmin levels are negatively associated with liver fibrosis: a promising novel non-invasive model to predict liver fibrosis in chronic hepatitis B virus patients with normal or minimally raised ALT
Reviewer's code: 03538936
Reviewer's country: Italy
Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong
Date sent for review: 2016-07-13 15:52
Date reviewed: 2016-07-26 05:08

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

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this manuscript authors aim at identify the Ceruloplasmin as a non invasive index to predict liver fibrosis in HBV chronic hepatitis. The topic is interesting although already investigated in other human model of liver disease. It is globally well written with a congrous number of patient involved. Ceruloplasmin could be a marker of liver related metabolic impairment (not only in wilson or menkes disease) as reported in other papers that have not been mentioned by the authors (e.g. HCV related cirrosis with hepatic encephalopathy - Marano et al. Altered metal metabolism in patients with HCV-related cirrhosis and hepatic encephalopathy. Metab Brain Dis. 2015 Dec;30(6):1445-52). Furthermore Cp appears in two circulating form in serum, the apo cp and the holo cp according to the assemblance of the molecule with copper (the process impaired in Wilson disease and probably in advanced liver disease). These could be measured evaluating the Cp enzymatic activity, more sensible, and possibly differently associated to various liver condition. I suggest to fixing the following major and minor issues: Major - briefly but better introduce the significance of

ceruloplasmin in human biology and patophisiology and previous studies involving cp in humans (Marano et al. 2015) Major - comment as a limitation Of the study the methodological approach in dosing Cp in the human serum considering other possibilities as evaluating the cp activity (Siotto M et al. Automation of o-dianisidine assay for ceruloplasmin activity analyses: usefulness of investigation in Wilson's disease and in hepatic encephalopathy. J Neural Transm (Vienna). 2014 Oct;121(10):1281-6.) Minor - declare the exclusion criteria