

ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 3204

Title: Noninvasive Assessment of Liver Fibrosis in Chronic Hepatitis B

Reviewer code: 02462048

Science editor: Zhai, Huan-Huan

Date sent for review: 2013-04-15 16:36

Date reviewed: 2013-04-24 00:26

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	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"/> Existed	<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"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Non-Invasive Assessment of Liver Fibrosis in Chronic Hepatitis B Mehmet Celikbilek et al. Celikbilek et al. provide an interesting analysis of APRI score in the assessment of both fibrosis and Cirrhosis in patients with Chronic Hepatitis B. However this study investigated a non-invasive assessment of liver fibrosis, there are some points that need to be discussed and corrected to increase the impact of the paper: 1- The authors claimed Liver biopsy is the gold standard for the assessment of fibrosis. This statement is not true there is no gold standard described in international guidelines for the assessment of liver fibrosis in patients with CHB. However, it seems that liver biopsy may give more accurate results especially to differentiate early stages of fibrosis; no gold standard has been described so far. 2- The authors should better balance the length of the different paragraph, for example they should include in the results paragraph the pvalue of the different statistical differences they describe. 3- In the results, table 3, the authors find a statistical association ($p=0.022$) between age and cirrhosis. They should comment this result; do they think this result may introduce a bias in their analysis?

ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 3204

Title: Noninvasive Assessment of Liver Fibrosis in Chronic Hepatitis B

Reviewer code: 00608278

Science editor: Zhai, Huan-Huan

Date sent for review: 2013-04-15 16:36

Date reviewed: 2013-04-25 18:07

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input 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"/> Existed	<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"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Summary: The authors provide an interesting and potentially important manuscript describing noninvasive assessment of liver Fibrosis in chronic hepatitis B. The authors showed that the platelet count is a unique independent predictive factor for liver fibrosis in CHB. They observed that APRI score was significantly higher in cirrhotic patients than in non-cirrhotic patients, although this significance was not confirmed by multiple logistic regression analysis. The optimum APRI score cut-off point to identify patients with cirrhosis was 1.01 with sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value and negative predictive value of 62%, 74%, 29%, and 92%, respectively. In addition, correlation analyses revealed that N / L ratio has a negative and significant relationship with HAI. The authors concluded that APRI and N / L ratio were not suitable methods to determine either significant fibrosis or cirrhosis in CHB. APRI score may be useful to exclude cirrhosis in CHB patients. This study is well designed and well performed. However, I have several concerns. 1. How about the history of patients' CHB and medication treatments? 2. The authors should provide study limitation. 3. Please show one decimal place for mean values and median values 4. Please check references format.

ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 3204

Title: Noninvasive Assessment of Liver Fibrosis in Chronic Hepatitis B

Reviewer code: 00069083

Science editor: Zhai, Huan-Huan

Date sent for review: 2013-04-15 16:36

Date reviewed: 2013-04-28 18:37

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<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"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript " Noninvasive Assessment of Liver Fibrosis in Chronic Hepatitis B " proposes interesting aspects of APRI score in the assessment of both fibrosis and Cirrhosis in patients with Chronic Hepatitis B. Although contradictory to the current and past literature and the related work has been published, I recommend to accept the manuscript with minor revisions: 1.) The title and the take home-message have to be relativized. 2.) The manuscript needs to undergo linguistic revision.