

ESPS Peer-review Report**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Hepatology**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 9278**Title:** Circulating MicroRNAs in Patients with Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease**Reviewer code:** 02860895**Science editor:** Huan-Huan Zhai**Date sent for review:** 2014-02-08 09:36**Date reviewed:** 2014-02-12 08:24

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)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This excellent human study showed a possibility that biopsy could be omitted in diagnostic procedures for NAFLD. However, clinicians' largest interest is how to differentiate between NASH and simple steatosis without biopsies. The authors excluded patients with simple steatosis from the present study. I think that simple steatosis should have been created as the third group, in addition to NASH and normal controls.

ESPS Peer-review Report
Name of Journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9278

Title: Circulating MicroRNAs in Patients with Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease

Reviewer code: 02860956

Science editor: Huan-Huan Zhai

Date sent for review: 2014-02-08 09:36

Date reviewed: 2014-02-12 22:54

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

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The article of Celikbilek et al. "Circulating MicroRNAs in Patients with Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease" is interesting with a remarkable presentation. The search of new non-invasive methods which can clinicians used as alternative to liver biopsy has emerged in recent years. Authors give interesting data which related to diagnostic accuracy assessment of miRNAs for NAFLD. But there are some minor revisions in manuscript which should be corrected beforehand. Author should carefully read list of statistical procedures. For example you didn't used multivariate logistic regression analyses, one-way analysis of variance or the Kruskal-Wallis test but give the descriptions of this tests in sections 'Materials and methods'. Please give the clarification for method which you used for ROC-curve comparison analysis. Also will be grateful if you give for journal readers one more table with correlation analysis between miRNAs and NAS-scale parameters (etc. steatosis, fibrosis).

ESPS Peer-review Report
Name of Journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9278

Title: Circulating MicroRNAs in Patients with Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease

Reviewer code: 02860745

Science editor: Huan-Huan Zhai

Date sent for review: 2014-02-08 09:36

Date reviewed: 2014-02-13 09:50

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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript entitled Circulating microRNA in NAFLD patients treats a very interesting subject in current clinical practice, such as non invasive diagnosis of NAFLD. It has a very thorough explanation of clinical relevance of each microRNA, and very detailed methods description. The conclusions are well stated and clear as to the utility of results. As minor revisions, the paper states NAFLD is compared with controls, however this is not accurate, since only NASH patients were included. Since the most important feature in NAFLD diagnosis is to differentiate between fatty liver and NASH, both this groups should be represented. A curious fact is that despite all patients had NASH diagnosis; they had normal blood pressure, fasting blood glucose and HOMAIR. Since this is rare in NASH patients, perhaps some information regarding group selection would be useful.

ESPS Peer-review Report
Name of Journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9278

Title: Circulating MicroRNAs in Patients with Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease

Reviewer code: 02860585

Science editor: Huan-Huan Zhai

Date sent for review: 2014-02-08 09:36

Date reviewed: 2014-02-23 03:54

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

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this paper, Celikbilek et al. analyzed the serum expression profile of some miRNAs in NAFLD, concluding that NAFLD is associated with altered serum miRNA expression pattern. The search of new non-invasive methods which can clinicians used as alternative to liver biopsy has emerged in recent years. Given the goal of achieving a non-invasive method to diagnose NAFLD is a growing concern, the analysis is justified and the aim of the study is clinically relevant. However, the design presents some problems that enhance doubts about conclusion. The most important feature in NAFLD patients is to be able to distinguish those patients showing NASH, because the presence of liver inflammation is related to a worse prognostic, so both groups should be represented.

ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9278

Title: Circulating MicroRNAs in Patients with Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease

Reviewer code: 02861016

Science editor: Huan-Huan Zhai

Date sent for review: 2014-02-08 09:36

Date reviewed: 2014-03-05 04:57

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 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
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<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this study, Celikbilek et al address that Circulating MicroRNAs in Patients with Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease. The authors demonstrated that serum levels of miR-181d, miR-99a, miR-197 and miR-146b were significantly lower in biopsy proven NAFLD patients than in the healthy controls. Serum levels of miR-197 and miR-10b were inversely correlated with degree of inflammation and miR-181d and miR-99a were inversely correlated with serum gamma glutamyl transferase levels in NAFLD patients. NAFLD is associated with altered serum miRNA expression pattern. This study gives clues to define non-invasive diagnosis of NAFLD. COMMENTS Although the study is of potential interest and relevance, there is some space for improvement. In particular, as presented the study looks too descriptive in nature with little mechanistic insights for the observations made. 1. The results are a little few and the author should describe and analysis more data and results. 2. AUROC values of miR-197, mir-146b, mir-181d and mir-99a miRNA's were around 0.75- 0.86. What is the best marker with NAFLD in your study? What value is cut off? 3. What is associated with DM, Chole, TG, NAFLD and mi-RNA? 4. Several studies showed that mi-RNA is a biomarker for NAFLD. What is difference between previous studies and your study. 5. There is minor language polishing.