

Dear Reviewers and Editor,

thank you for considering our paper for publication. Please find below a point-by-point answer to Reviewers comments.

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Major revision

Specific Comments to Authors: The authors described the role of the liver stiffness (LS) measurement the liver fibrosis and the cirrhosis-related events in HCV-eradicated patients. In addition, they mentioned some biomarkers mainly focusing on the FIB-4 and APRI indices.
Comments:

1) Regarding the ultrasound-based noninvasive assessment of the gastroesophageal varices, spleen stiffness (SS) measurement has been proposed as useful methods (Ultrasound Med Biol. 2021 Jan;47(1):76-83.; J Hepatol. 2021 Mar;74(3):584-592.. World J Gastroenterol. 2019 Jan 21;25(3):308-329. Gastroenterology. 2012 Oct;143(4):e23, etc). I would like to recommend the authors to add some description regarding the role of the SS measurement.

RE: We thank the Reviewer for this observation: we added the description of the role of spleen stiffness measurement at page 5, line 8-34 (“Paternostro et al endorse... obstruction or liver metastasis”).

2) In relation to the gastroesophageal varices, the role of FIB-4 and APRI indices are limited and some noninvasive methods have been proposed (Liver Int. 2017 Aug;37(8):1177-1183.; Gastrointest Endosc. 2018 Aug;88(2):230-239.e2.; Am J Gastroenterol. 2019 Aug;114(8):1275-1282.). Kindly mention the role of other biomarkers. I consider that the RESIST-HCV (Am J Gastroenterol. 2019 Aug;114(8):1275-1282) is particularly important for patients with an SVR.

RE: We discussed the importance of non invasive methods for the assessment of gastroesophageal varices at page 6, line 16-33 and page 7, line 1-2 (“Since the role of these indices... false-negative results”).

3) They mentioned some factors that are associated with the HCC development after an SVR including age, advanced fibrosis/cirrhosis, platelets count, steatosis, diabetes, alfafetoprotein, gamma-glutamyltransferase levels, ethnic and environmental factors. However, some genetic factors have been also proposed to be involved in the HCC development, though the roles seems to be sometimes controversial and unconfirmed (J Gastrointestin Liver Dis. 2019 Dec 9;28(4):449-456.; Gastroenterology. 2017 May;152(6):1383-1394.. J Viral Hepat. 2019 Oct;26(10):1233-1236.). Kindly add the description regarding the gene polymorphisms that are potentially associated with the HCC development after the HCV-eradication.

RE: We added a comment about genetic factors associated to HCC development at page 9, line 27-33; page 10, line 1-2 (“In their cohort... follow-up period”).

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Major revision

Specific Comments to Authors: Numerous studies have shown that direct-acting antiviral drugs (DAAs)-induced sustained virological response (SVR) is independently associated with lower risk of liver cirrhosis complications. HCV eradication in patients with cirrhosis may stop fibrosis progression or even cause fibrosis regression, leading to improved portal hypertension and reduced risk of hepatocellular carcinoma. Transient elastography (VCTE) is a well-known modern method for assessing liver fibrosis by determining liver stiffness. In this respect, I found nothing new in this review. I strongly recommend that the authors consider associated with VCTE algorithm for monitoring patients who have achieved SVR after HCV treatment (PMID: 29391861), as well as the role of a SVR in primary prevention of bleeding from esophageal varices in subclinical portal hypertension (DOI: 10.1111/jebm.12407).

RE: According to this comment, we have highlighted the importance of VCTE algorithm for the follow-up after SVR (page 4 line 11-17 “At this purpose, Trivedi... should be performed”) and further underlined the role of SVR in primary prevention of esophageal varices bleeding (page 5 line 1-7 “The review by Garbuzenko... to less than 12 mmHg”).

Finally, we have double-checked for mistakes and grammar to improve clarity.

We hope that the issues raised by the reviewers have been adequately addressed in the previous answers and that this study could be of interest for publication in the prestigious *World Journal of Hepatology*.

Best Regards

Dr. Maria Assunta Zocco