

Response to the comments of the respected reviewers



January 25, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name final revised and language edited 15933 .doc).

Title: Normal liver stiffness: A study in living donors with normal liver histology

Author: Ayman Alsebaey, Naglaa Allam, Khalid Alswat, Imam Waked

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 15993

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

A) Format has been updated

B) Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers:

(1) Reviewer 1

Comments: A most interesting and well written with original information paper. It addresses the prospect of the new non invasive procedure of evaluating liver status in a very detail and well conceptualized manner. I strongly support its publication in its original form.

Response: We thank the reviewer for the comments. No changes were requested._

(2) Reviewer 2: _

Comments: This is an interesting and well thought out study. The methodology is sound and the conclusions robust. The population involved in the study is from Egypt and thus there is likely to be minimal use of alcohol compared to a typical European or North American population. Thus the results may be population-dependent and need to be established in different regions. The references need to have do and PMID references as per the instructions to authors.

Response: We thank the reviewer for the comments. The DOI and PMID were added in the references section in the manuscript and highlighted.

(3) Reviewer number 3:

The authors showed the LS values of normal liver. Because the number of liver biopsy for normal liver is limited, this study is interesting.

*Major Comment (1) In Fig2, the authors showed the correlation between BMI and liver stiffness. They showed the details of fatty change of liver. The authors should show the correlation between fatty change in the liver and liver stiffness.

*Minor Comments (1) In Table2, Age, Gender and BMI should be added. (2) The quality of Fig1 is very poor. The authors should brush up it. (3) In Fig2, error bars should be added.

Response:

Response to Major comment 1: Actually in this study we selected 50 donors with a totally "normal" histology and no steatosis. We wrote the following sentence at the beginning of the results "Subjects with minimal histologic changes that did not prevent donation were not included in this analysis." Hence it was not possible to do comparison between fatty change in the liver and liver stiffness. We only correlated between liver stiffness and body mass index.

We wrote the following in the discussion: "In the present study, 46% of the subjects had a BMI between 27-30 kg/m² and LS was significantly higher in normal subjects with higher BMI (>26kg/m²). Their biopsies did not reveal steatosis which may influence LSM. Hence the potential mechanisms for the high liver stiffness values in healthy subjects with a higher BMI without histological changes of steatosis remain speculative and might include the direct effect of high BMI".

Response to Minor comment 1:

Table 2 was modified as requested. Please find the age, gender and BMI added in the attached manuscript (highlighted).

Response to Minor comment 2: Figure 1 was brushed up. Please find it modified in the attached manuscript (highlighted).

Response to Minor comment 3: The error bars were added in figure 2. Please find it modified in the attached manuscript (highlighted).

C) References and typesetting were corrected.

Thank you again for reviewing our manuscript in the World Journal of Hepatology.

Sincerely yours,

Naglaa Allam

Corresponding author

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Naglaa Allam". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Naglaa" written in a larger, more prominent style than the last name "Allam".