



**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 40349

**Title:** PNPL rs139051 is associated with phospholipid metabolite profile and hepatic inflammation in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease

**Reviewer’s code:** 01944824

**Reviewer’s country:** United States

**Science editor:** Jin-Lei Wang

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**Date reviewed:** 2018-06-21

**Review time:** 2 Days

| SCIENTIFIC QUALITY                          | LANGUAGE QUALITY                                      | CONCLUSION                              | PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS              |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept         | Peer-Review:                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language      | (High priority)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good      | polishing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept         | <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of     | (General priority)                      | Peer-reviewer’s expertise on the      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not    | language polishing                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision | topic of the manuscript:              |
| publish                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection           | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced     |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection      | <input type="checkbox"/> General      |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> No expertise |
|   |   |   | Conflicts-of-Interest:                |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes          |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> No           |

**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Page 8: “There was extensive impact of PNALA3 SNPs on the serum level of several types of lipid, including cholesteryl ester (CE), free fatty acid (FFA), lysophosphatidylcholine (LPC), lysophosphatidylcholine plasmalogen (LPCO),



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lysophosphatidylethanolamine (LPE), phosphatidylcholine (PC), choline plasmalogen (PCO), phosphatidylethanolamine (PE), ethanolamine plasmalogen (PEO), and triacylglycerol (TAG) (Table 2).” This statement is descriptive, without specifying the nature of the “impact” on lipid levels. The accompanying Table 2 is complex and its significance is difficult to interpret. The authors should state only significant changes (compared to controls) in association with a PNPLA3 SNP, either hetero- or homozygous. The term “extensive impact” does not belong in a results section, which should merely state the significant changes. Qualitative statements concerning results should be reserved for the Discussion. Pages 8-9: The extensive listing of individual lipid changes is redundant, considering that all data is provided in Table 3. The narrative should be shortened to indicate significant changes only, without providing individual values listed in the table. The final statement in this section, “Thus PNPLA3 rs139051 and rs2294918 are suggested to affect the phospholipid metabolite profile, especially LPCs, LPCOs and PEs, in a bidirectional manner”, is, again, interpretive and should be reserved for the discussion. Therein, the authors should explain what is meant by the phrase “bidirectional manner”. Page 10, paragraphs 1 and 2: Here again the authors should truncate the narrative to indicate significant changes, without recapitulating data provided in the table. The final sentence is speculative and belongs in the Discussion. Page 12, last paragraph: “Metabolomically” is not a word. The entire Discussion should be shortened. For example, the authors could comment on SNP-related changes in lipid profiles in a more general way (eg, Increased or decreased phospholipid species) without providing the extensive parenthetical insertion of individual changes). These only serve to make the narrative difficult to read in interpret. Page 13, paragraph 1: “...significantly correlated with hepatic inflammation in a reciprocal manner.” Please clarify this statement. Again, in the preceding test, avoid the use of extensive listing of individual values in parenthesis.



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#### INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

##### *Google Search:*

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