

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 41009

**Title:** Declining diagnostic accuracy of non-invasive fibrosis tests is associated with elevated alanine aminotransferase in chronic hepatitis B

**Reviewer's code:** 02811953

**Reviewer's country:** United States

**Science editor:** Fang-Fang Ji

**Date sent for review:** 2018-07-19

**Date reviewed:** 2018-07-29

**Review time:** 9 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript (Number ID: 02811953) entitled "Declining diagnostic accuracy of non-invasive fibrosis tests is associated with elevated alanine aminotransferase in chronic hepatitis B" is a research paper by Lin Wang, et al. The authors investigated the



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relationship of alanine aminotransferase (ALT) level and the results of non-invasive fibrosis tests in chronic hepatitis B (CHB). They concluded that ALT has a significant effect on the diagnostic performance of the non-invasive fibrosis tests. Major comments

1. The major concern is that the authors actually had investigated the relationship between the ALT and fibrosis in patients with CHB. Since they did not alter the levels of the ALT and liver functions, they could not conclude that it was the effect of ALT on fibrosis. This should be corrected. They are actually looking for a correlation, not effect.
2. In the last paragraph of the result section, what did the authors mean “non-patented tests”?
3. Some language editing is needed. For example, in the discussion section, “..we are the first study..” is not a correct expression style.

## INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

### *Google Search:*

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ [Y] No

### *BPG Search:*

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ [Y] No

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 41009

**Title:** Declining diagnostic accuracy of non-invasive fibrosis tests is associated with elevated alanine aminotransferase in chronic hepatitis B

**Reviewer's code:** 02860897

**Reviewer's country:** Japan

**Science editor:** Fang-Fang Ji

**Date sent for review:** 2018-07-30

**Date reviewed:** 2018-07-30

**Review time:** 11 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" 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
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publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The prediction formula of hepatic fibrosis combined with the results of laboratory tests has been difficult to distinguish mild fibrosis such as F1 and F2. However, due to the characteristics of the predictive formula, it is also affected in patient whose transaminase



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is high. In the present study, authors studied effect of ALT on each formula. In addition, AUROC of each prediction formula is compared in table 4, it is very useful in clinical practice. Major 1. In the present study, object was limited to cases due to HBV. Considering the characteristics of formula, can we apply these formula regardless of underlying disease?

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- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ [Y] No

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 41009

**Title:** Declining diagnostic accuracy of non-invasive fibrosis tests is associated with elevated alanine aminotransferase in chronic hepatitis B

**Reviewer's code:** 00069423

**Reviewer's country:** United States

**Science editor:** Fang-Fang Ji

**Date sent for review:** 2018-07-30

**Date reviewed:** 2018-08-04

**Review time:** 5 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
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			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

August 3, 2018 Review for World J Case studies, "Declining diagnostic accuracy of non-invasive fibrosis tests is associated with elevated alanine aminotransferase in chronic hepatitis B" by Wang et al Comments The controversy as to the applicability of



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currently used non-invasive fibrosis test for patients with hepatitis B is again brought to light by the authors of this paper. While non-invasive fibrosis tests were originally generated and applied effectively to patients with chronic hepatitis B. other studies have shown conflicting results in the past. In this manuscript, the authors highlighted the influence of the ALT levels on the accuracy of non-invasive fibrosis tests and indicated the best usage of these tests was for CHB patients with normal ALT. The discussion is excellent in support of their finding. I believe these findings are significant and should be considered when using the non-invasive fibrosis tests for patients with CHB. Further studies may be able to add further applicability of the much needed non-invasive tests in the future. There are a few typos and grammatical errors.

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