



# Baishideng Publishing Group Co., Limited

Flat C, 23/F., Lucky Plaza,  
315-321 Lockhart Road,  
Wan Chai, Hong Kong, China

## ESPS Peer-review Report

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 4026

**Title:** Is increased red cell distribution width (RDW) an indicating marker of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis and fibrotic stage?

**Reviewer code:** 02440657

**Science editor:** Zhai, Huan-Huan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-06-12 14:07

**Date reviewed:** 2013-06-17 15:39

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

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

COMMENTS (Manuscript NO: 4026) This manuscript titled with “Is increased red cell distribution width (RDW) an indicating marker of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis and fibrotic stage”, describes the correlation between Red cell distribution width (RDW) values and fibrotic activity and histological features of NASH. The authors claim that RDW is associated with histological severity of NASH. Interestingly, they found that RDW was also an indicator of hepatic fibrogenic progression, thus they concluded that RDW could be a promising marker for diagnosing NASH and fibrosis in clinic. The authors have certainly done a great deal of work, which is also valuable for NASH diagnosis, however, there are a number of issues should be considered. 1. The work included liver biopsies and pathology data, but some information was not clearly displayed while others were not available: Of the three groups, 62 NASH patients were performed liver biopsy, as indicated in the manuscript, here comes the confusing part “Thirty two patients with biopsy proven simple steatosis and thirty healthy controls without any liver diseases, with normal liver function tests and normal abdominal ultrasonography were enrolled in the study.” These two groups were both biopsy proven or not? It seems that the control group was diagnosed by ultrasonography, so it should be described more specific here. 2. The manuscript doesn’t indicate if it is a retrospective study, but in anyway, the basic information of the patients is required, such as where the patients were admitted, in which hospital the biopsies were performed, when such study began and how long it last... 3. Since the pathological score is of quite a bit artificial influence, the authors need provide how they get the score, if the hepatic histology evaluation was from the same group of pathologists or not, and if there was any verification of pathological result? 4. As for the writing of the manuscript, the



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introduction and discussion parts are poorly organized, some quotes from literature are not relate to the authors' views, and some need to be better integrated. In addition, there are quite a few confusing sentences among the context, and need to be checked thoroughly. Minor comments: 1. Please define NASH consistently (I saw Nash in other paragraphs); 2. As the statistical value, the letter "p" should be shown as italic; 3. Figure legends should be included; 4. The symbols, such as dash, less-than signs can be typed under English input method. 5. Please check the spelling, some letters are missing.



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**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 4026

**Title:** Is increased red cell distribution width (RDW) an indicating marker of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis and fibrotic stage?

**Reviewer code:** 01561119

**Science editor:** Zhai, Huan-Huan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-06-12 14:07

**Date reviewed:** 2013-06-20 07:08

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

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Comment to authors The manuscript by Cengiz et al. presented a new laboratorial and non-invasive marker of NASH and fibrotic stage. The authors concluded that in patients with biopsy proven NASH, RDW is associated with histological severity and can be used to identify patients with advanced liver fibrosis disease. Though I think that the reliability of data presented is almost high, it is necessary to revise the manuscript, in order to become more innovative. I think that patients back-grounds in Methods section and discussions were slightly lacked. Specific criticisms are listed below, and I have some questions and recommendations that the authors should address.

Comment-1 The representative case of a photograph should be shown. NASH, fibrosis, etc.

Comment-2 In the Methods section, the authors should show more details of patients' back-grounds. For example, what kind of drugs were administered to patients who have diabetes and/or hypertension? Moreover, the authors should show the number of patients in fibrotic score 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 in Figure 5, respectively.

Comment-3 Figure legends should be addressed. All symbols in each graph were unknown.

Comment-4 The authors should discuss more relationship between RDW value and virus hepatitis. If another papers mentioned these relationships, they should be quoted, appropriately. Reviewer focuses spacial attention to this point.

Comment-5 The decrease in number of platelet is specific marker of hepatic fibrosis or cirrhosis, too. In this manuscript, the number of platelet in NASH group is not markedly fall. The authors should discuss this phenomenon. If there is clear relation between platelet count and fibrotic stage, these should be discussed, appropriately.

Minor Comments ?In Tabel 1, Creatinie values should have '±' between mean and SD. ?There were typing and spelling errors in all over manuscript. The author should check them carefully once again.



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**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 4026

**Title:** Is increased red cell distribution width (RDW) an indicating marker of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis and fibrotic stage?

**Reviewer code:** 01801241

**Science editor:** Zhai, Huan-Huan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-06-12 14:07

**Date reviewed:** 2013-06-21 23:38

| 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)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected                            | BPG Search:                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision                |
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|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> No records |  |

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I think that the authors have made a very interesting work that, if confirmed in other works, will be of great utility for prognosis of NASH patients. Abstract-ok. Introduction: they comment recent reports that have demonstrated a negative outcome in cardiovascular disease..., but I think that they must add that recently, Hu et al (Clin Chem Lab Med 2013; Jan 11 (epub ahead of print) have demonstrated that this marker, that is elevated in liver disease, is a potential prognostic index for liver disease. In the other hand, Milic S et al. (Coll Anropol 2011; 35 Suppl 335-8), did not retrieved any clinical value in differentiation of anemia neither in alcoholic and non-alcoholic cirrhosis nor in severity of liver disease. Methods/Results:OK. Discussion: -In the second paragraph they comment: "We aimed to investigate ...", and in the fourth paragraph they state " the main findings of our study...", that is the real answer of the objectives that they have commented previously. I think that the 2nd paragraph must be present, as it is, in the introduction, and it would be enough. -Alkhoury et al. found....And hypothesised.../ correct: , and hypothesised... Refereces, tables, and figures: Ok. -add the commented references.