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ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5498

Title: Validation of the Psychometric Hepatic Encephalopathy Score (PHES) for Diagnosis of Minimal Hepatic Encephalopathy in China

Reviewer code: 00182548

Science editor: Qi, Yuan

Date sent for review: 2013-09-13 16:31

Date reviewed: 2013-09-14 23:12

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

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The article is interesting and useful. It can be the basis for the diagnosis of hepatic encephalopathy in cirrhotic patients in China. Study and statistical analysis were done accurately. It would be good if the information did not repeat throughout the article. The expression in English is not the best. The article should be reviewed in this regard.



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Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5498

Title: Validation of the Psychometric Hepatic Encephalopathy Score (PHES) for Diagnosis of Minimal Hepatic Encephalopathy in China

Reviewer code: 01800318

Science editor: Qi, Yuan

Date sent for review: 2013-09-13 16:31

Date reviewed: 2013-09-19 23:18

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

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a single-center study from China aiming to validate the Psychometric Hepatic Encephalopathy Score (PHES) for diagnosis of Minimal Hepatic Encephalopathy (MHE) in cirrhotic patients, without overt hepatic encephalopathy. This is very interesting study, however there are some minor issues that need further clarification before a potential publication. I would like from authors to pay attention and to respond to the following issues: 1. Did the authors perform power calculation in order to find the necessary number of patients included in the different groups for safe results? As the authors main aim is to present a study representative for Chinese population, the number of total 56 cirrhotic patients seems to me small. Also the number of 7 patients with child C cirrhosis is also small. Greater number of patients are necessary, according to other similar studies (more than 200 participants) referenced by the authors. So it should be advisable to increase the number of patients in the present study. 2. It is important to comment more on the PHES score between the control group and cirrhotic group first. Then to use a formula for the cirrhotic group and then to clearly compare, comment and discuss the differences between MHE and non-MHE subgroups of the cirrhotic group. 3. The authors should explain why they define the cut-off of -4 as base for diagnosis of MHE? 4. In some areas in Discussion there is plagiarism. Validation adjusted to age and education has been also reported to other similar studies referenced by the authors. The authors spent a lot of time on age and education adjusted validation. The authors should focus on their own results and compare them to other similar studies. 5. English language is very good although some minor mistakes.



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ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5498

Title: Validation of the Psychometric Hepatic Encephalopathy Score (PHES) for Diagnosis of Minimal Hepatic Encephalopathy in China

Reviewer code: 01588404

Science editor: Qi, Yuan

Date sent for review: 2013-09-13 16:31

Date reviewed: 2013-09-23 14:51

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" 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)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a well written manuscript by the authors, validating the PHES for minimal hepatic encephalopathy after correcting for age and education levels in chinese population. Instead of using FCT as used by Indian authors for illiterate subjects the authors have used correction for both age and education. Application of the correction has identified approx 49% of cirrhotics as having MHE which is similar to others. Major suggestion It would have been interesting to have evaluated CFF in both volunteers and Cirrhotics administred PHES and seen the correlation between results and the sensitivity and specificity of PHES and its component tests. However, this is still an interesting study which has created age and education level corrected values for chinese population which will enable other authors to diagnose MHE in ciirhotics and evaluate interventions.



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Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5498

Title: Validation of the Psychometric Hepatic Encephalopathy Score (PHES) for Diagnosis of Minimal Hepatic Encephalopathy in China

Reviewer code: 00181501

Science editor: Qi, Yuan

Date sent for review: 2013-09-13 16:31

Date reviewed: 2013-09-27 12:46

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
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		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a nice work. However, two issues should be considered in a revision paper. First, the sample size is small. Second, the reason about defining the cut-off of -4 as base for diagnosis of MHE should be explained.