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### ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6835

**Title:** Noninvasive assessment of liver fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B

**Reviewer code:** 00185907

**Science editor:** Qi, Yuan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-10-29 18:04

**Date reviewed:** 2013-11-17 16:00

| 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 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                     | <input type="checkbox"/> No records | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)                 | language polishing  | 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

Needs little language corrections by a native English speaking person.

**ESPS Peer-review Report**

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6835

**Title:** Noninvasive assessment of liver fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B

**Reviewer code:** 00012516

**Science editor:** Qi, Yuan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-10-29 18:04

**Date reviewed:** 2013-11-20 22:31

| 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"/> 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**

Enomoto's review article entitles "Noninvasive assessment of liver fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B" described the Noninvasive biomarkers and techniques in the assessment of liver fibrosis. The authors just piled published papers and listed the documented biomarkers and techniques and some combinations of these. However, after reading the article, I still don't know how to use these parameters in the assessment of liver fibrosis. I noticed that the authors listed the biomarkers and transient elastography and their AUROC. However, these are still confusing. I need a definitive cut-off index, with this in each marker/technique, I can get the sensitivity, specificity. Another question: what about other techniques? Such as acoustic radiation force impulse, real-time tissue elastography and magnetic resonance elastography etc. As the authors said, liver biopsy has been considered the "gold standard" for diagnosing chronic liver disease, grading necroinflammatory activity, and staging liver fibrosis. When assessing the diagnostic accuracy of various noninvasive tests, liver biopsy has to be a standard, the review also should choose the papers with liver biopsy. There are many English errors the authors need to pay more attention: The mean liver stiffness values obtained by ARFI were shown by Sporea et al. [48] to be similar between patients with chronic hepatitis B and those with chronic hepatitis C for the same stage of fibrosis. Should be: Sporea et al showed: the mean liver stiffness values obtained by ARFI were similar between patients with chronic hepatitis B and those with chronic hepatitis C for the same stage of fibrosis. [48] The harder the tissue is, the faster the shear wave spreads You don't have to parallel here. The sentence will be better without "is"

## ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6835

**Title:** Noninvasive assessment of liver fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B

**Reviewer code:** 00007392

**Science editor:** Qi, Yuan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-10-29 18:04

**Date reviewed:** 2013-11-22 16:15

| 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"/> 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 review focused on several serum biomarkers, combined indices/scores, and imaging techniques for the noninvasive assessment of liver fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B. As authors stated, an accurate diagnosis of liver fibrosis is essential for the management of chronic liver disease including chronic hepatitis B. This review is well written and some issues are important for clinicians, but some points should be addressed. Specific comments. 1. Authors stated that serum markers can be influenced by comorbid conditions. Please explain more in detail using references. Severe hepatitis, hyperbilirubinemia, alcohol consumption and hemolysis may be important factors to affect the results of several algorithms. 2. Some texts are same as previous reports without citation (reference). For example, the text in page 6, line 15-17 is exactly same to the text in reference 25. It may be unfavorable. Some consideration is needed. 3. Authors showed the result of Boursier's study (ref.25). However, this study did not focused on the result in patients with chronic hepatitis B. Authors should mention this point. 4. Page 10; Authors stated on the issue of assessing the clinical stage of disease. However, the association between this issue and the aim of this review is somewhat difficult to understand. 5. Authors stated that liver biopsy can cause death (page 4). Please indicate the reference, if possible. 6. Conclusion is relatively long. 7. Please check the following words; ROC (in text) vs. AUROC (in Table 1). platelet count and platelets (in forms index in Table 1).

## ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6835

**Title:** Noninvasive assessment of liver fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B

**Reviewer code:** 02860516

**Science editor:** Qi, Yuan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-10-29 18:04

**Date reviewed:** 2014-02-25 22:33

| 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)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Existed    | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision                |
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## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Authors have evaluated all the available data on non invasive measures for assessing liver fibrosis in patients with CHB. The manuscript is good for daily clinical practice and will help physicians in the clinical management of individuals with CHB.