

ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 12242

Title: IS NEUTROPHIL TO LYMPHOCYTE RATIO ASSOCIATED WITH LIVER FIBROSIS IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC HEPATITIS B ?

Reviewer code: 00068720

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2014-06-30 19:16

Date reviewed: 2014-07-12 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Existing | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected | BPG Search: | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor | | <input type="checkbox"/> Existing | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> No records | |

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript is concerned with the association between neutrophil to lymphocyte (N/L) ratio and the severity of the fibrosis of liver. The authors also attempted to determine N/L ratio as a novel noninvasive marker of fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B infection. However, introduction about the reasons why the authors were doing this research, how other researchers are doing in this fields, and the innovation of the results are poor. 1. Material and Methods: How the basis of these two groups? If the patients could be divided into more groups? 2. PC III (III procollagen), IV-C (IV collagen), LN (laminin) and HA (hyaluronidase) can be used for the diagnosis of liver fibrosis. For the diagnosis of liver fibrosis and measure of the degree of inflammatory activity, how about the advantages of N / L ratio than PC III, IV-C, LN and HA? 3. The results of the "the highest sensitivity (80.0%) and specificity (53.2%) for angiogenesis should be more properly presented. 4. In addition to liver fibrosis, there are a variety of other organic disease and inflammation can cause the change of N / L ratio. So this conditions should be excluded in order to increase specificity of N/L ratio for detecting CHB and significant fibrosis. 5. The authors should compare with data of the similar studies and give a more reasonable explanation. Add more powerful references, just like "Alkhoury N, et al, Liver Int, 2012. 6. "Reference" needs to be further updated and checked, e.g. Ref. 25,27,29,30,32,33.

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Title: IS NEUTROPHIL TO LYMPHOCYTE RATIO ASSOCIATED WITH LIVER FIBROSIS IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC HEPATITIS B ?

Reviewer code: 02374599

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2014-06-30 19:16

Date reviewed: 2014-07-14 11:39

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

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Comments to authors: The manuscript investigated the association between neutrophil to lymphocyte (N/L) ratio and the severity of the liver fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B infection. Their results showed that N/L ratio was decreased in CHB patients with significant fibrosis. The study was innovation and might provide a novel non-invasive marker of fibrosis in CHB patients. However, there were still some issues needed to be revised: 1. Please add in vivo or in vitro experiments to explain why N/L ratio changed in CHB patients? 2. The authors aimed to investigate the association between N/L ratio and the severity of the liver fibrosis in patients with CHB. They would be better to find out whether N/L ratio was associated with CHB first. At least normal control for CHB patients was lacked. 3. How to define the score F0, F1, F2, F3 and F4 respectively? Please describe it in detail in Methods section. 4. Please add subtitles in Results section. 5. The patients were also divided into HBe antigen negative (92/129, 71.4%) and positive group (37/129, 28.7%). What about the association between N/L ratio and HBe antigen or HBV DNA level? 6. What are the relationships between N/L ratio and age, HAI, platelet, ALT which associated with fibrosis? 7. Some description were lack of references, such as "The histological activity was graded according to Histological Activity Index score and fibrosis was staged according to metavir" (page 6, line 8th). Please add the references. 8. There were also some tense mistakes in this paper, such as "In our study, INR was not long in patients..."(page 9, line 3rd), "Although there many



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studies that..."(page 9, line 13th). It was suggested to ask for a native English speaker to edit this article.



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Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 12242

Title: IS NEUTROPHIL TO LYMPHOCYTE RATIO ASSOCIATED W?TH LIVER FIBROSIS IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC HEPATITIS B ?

Reviewer code: 01800318

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2014-06-30 19:16

Date reviewed: 2014-07-18 04:58

| 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"/> Existing | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor | | <input type="checkbox"/> Existing | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> No records | |

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It is a well-designed study that offers more to our knowledge in this nery interesting field. The structure is the appropriate one and the English language very rich. My suggestion is that this manuscript could be published after minor revision. In particular: In material and Methods, authors should mention from patients history the exact way of the infection as well as the years of infection. Furthemore it would be great if patients in two groups were subdivided to groups according to the sex and also it would be great the mean age to be referred. Finally, in this section, they should define the score of the Histological Activity Index scoreas well as the fibrosis according to metavirIn the sectio. n of introduction authors should mention some other ubnormal situations that affect the N/L RATIO and to clarify that all these causes have been excluded in the study. In their results they should mention the statistic data including the mean difference ,sd and P value. Finally, in the discussion text they should improve the the scientific term for the INR in a more sufficient and appropriate one (not long is not a scientific term for INR, so please improve your characterism).