



ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS manuscript NO: 28905
Title: Disease-specific miR-34a as diagnostic marker of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis in a Chinese population
Reviewer's code: 03646639
Reviewer's country: Japan
Science editor: Jing Yu
Date sent for review: 2016-07-22 11:02
Date reviewed: 2016-07-31 09:11

Table with 4 columns: CLASSIFICATION, LANGUAGE EVALUATION, SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT, CONCLUSION. It contains checkboxes for various evaluation criteria like 'Grade A: Excellent', 'Duplicate publication', 'Plagiarism', etc.

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Comment to author The paper by paper by Liu et al entitled 'Disease-specific miR-34 as diagnostic marker of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) in a Chinese population' is an interesting study on a new diagnostic biomarker of NASH. This study examined the performance of a new diagnostic biomarker panel for NASH. They found that serum level of miR-34a correlated with histological features of NASH include steatosis, hepatocyte ballooning, lobular inflammation. This study is well conducted and the methods used are appropriate. The data is presented clearly. These findings will be of interest to the practitioners as well as researchers in the field. However, there are some issues to be resolved. Major concerns 1) It would be helpful if the authors could show aspartate aminotransferase (AST) level and platelet count in Table 2 and investigated . 2) It would also be helpful to determine a diagnostic value of AST to platelet ratio index (APRI) and compare the diagnostic accuracy of different markers include miR-34a, ALT, CK18 and APRI with receiver operating characteristic curve analysis in the detection of NASH. 3) There seems to be a discrepancy between the data presented in table 3 and the result section (Page 13 line 12 and Page 14 line 1). This



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point needs checking. Minor concern The authors concluded that circulating mi-R34 had a strong correlation with hepatic steatosis and inflammatory activity in Page 20 line 13, although the correlation coefficient is no more than 0.6. I suggest that circulating mi-R34 had a moderate correlation.



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

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**Title:** Disease-specific miR-34a as diagnostic marker of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis in a Chinese population

**Reviewer's code:** 03537355

**Reviewer's country:** Brazil

**Science editor:** Jing Yu

**Date sent for review:** 2016-07-22 11:02

**Date reviewed:** 2016-08-06 23:25

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<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"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript presents relevant results. I suggest that the histological staining images be added to enhance the relevance of the article. I conclude by accepting the manuscript for publication after the explanations and amendments suggested in the annex to the authors.