

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

Manuscript NO: 73772

Title: Prognostic non-invasive biomarkers for all-cause mortality in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD): A systematic review and meta-analysis

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03475142

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: United Kingdom

Manuscript submission date: 2021-12-09

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-12-10 16:26

Reviewer performed review: 2021-12-22 16:49

Review time: 12 Days

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript was reviewed for publication in the journal. The review manuscript was designed to evaluate available evidence on the use of non-invasive test(s) as prognostic factors for mortality in NAFLD. It is the reviewer's opinion that the review is interesting and that the manuscript is easy to follow. However, it appears that there are a couple of concerns in the manuscript. 1) The authors evaluated available evidence on the use of non-invasive test(s) as prognostic factors for mortality in NAFLD in the study. Non-invasive test(s) such as NFS, FIB4, BARD, and APRI appears to be useful to predict liver fibrosis. Therefore, the use of these tests as prognostic factors for mortality in NAFLD may be incomprehensible. The authors should discuss the issue. 2) The authors discussed the prognostic markers for mortality in NAFLD, but not NASH. How about the definition of NAFLD? NASH may be more prognostic state for mortality. The authors should explain the point. 3) The non-invasive scoring system that performed best at predicting all-cause mortality was NFS [pHR 3.07], followed by FIB4 [pHR 3.06]. pHR of NFS and FIB4 appeared to be almost similar. How about forest plots for pHR for FIB4 and all-cause mortality? The authors should explain the point. 4) There are a couple of mistakes. Key points: in second sentence, NAFLD FIB4 in abstract vs FIB-4 in manuscript? Abstract: in section of Background and Aims, the use of non-invasive test

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Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 04737606

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: DSc, MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Ukraine

Author's Country/Territory: United Kingdom

Manuscript submission date: 2021-12-09

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-12-27 15:31

Reviewer performed review: 2022-01-02 15:57

Review time: 6 Days

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Peer-reviewer
statements**

Peer-Review: [☐] Anonymous [☒] Onymous
Conflicts-of-Interest: [☐] Yes [☒] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Current review sums up data regarding the important question in hepatology. It is well designed and argumentative. It would be beneficial if the authors will concretize possible difference in the role of the discussed laboratory parameters and scoring systems in patients with different stages of NAFLD steatosis, steatohepatitis, liver fibrosis and cirrhosis associated with fatty liver