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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology
ESPS manuscript NO: 17035
Title: Burden of NAFLD and advanced fibrosis in a Texas Hispanic community cohort
Reviewer's code: 00227406
Reviewer's country: United Kingdom
Science editor: Fang-Fang Ji
Date sent for review: 2015-02-09 15:07
Date reviewed: 2015-03-04 07:57

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A: Excellent	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	[ ] Accept
[Y] Grade B: Very good	[ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing	[ ] The same title	[ ] High priority for publication
[ ] Grade C: Good	[ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	[ ] Duplicate publication	[ ] Rejection
[ ] Grade D: Fair	[ ] Grade D: Rejected	[ ] Plagiarism	[Y] Minor revision
[ ] Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	[ ] Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		[ ] The same title	
		[ ] Duplicate publication	
		[ ] Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The study by Pan et al highlights the burden of NAFLD within a well defined population within the US (viz the Cameron County Hispanic Cohort). The study is essentially an hypothesis generating piece of research that the researchers acknowledge requires prospective follow-up with liver histology. In view of the apparent burden of NAFLD/NASH within this community, this is a very important piece of work. The researchers have attempted to identify a number a non-invasive serum markers of liver steatosis/ steatohepatitis as well as utilising liver ultrasonography to identify those with NAFLD? NASH fibrosis. They recognise the limitation of each serum panel and that of US in accurately identifying hepatic steatosis. Nevertheless, they seem to have identified a high burden of NASH fibrosis within this cohort and rightly suggest that this study should be followed up with correlation with liver biopsy which would certainly provide additional validity and diagnostic accuracy to the results presented here. The team is to be commended in their work to date and we look forward to future studies amongst this cohort. The only question I would make is to what extent additional causes of liver disease were excluded before participants were enrolled into the study. Hepatitis C was tested, but were other causes for chronic liver disease excluded e.g. hepatitis B/

HIV/ haemochromatosis, autoimmune liver disease (AIH/PSC/PBC etc)? Positivity for these conditions may confound the results presented. If a full liver screen was performed prior to enrollment then this needs to be highlighted in the body of the text.

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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology
ESPS manuscript NO: 17035
Title: Burden of NAFLD and advanced fibrosis in a Texas Hispanic community cohort
Reviewer's code: 02445063
Reviewer's country: United States
Science editor: Fang-Fang Ji
Date sent for review: 2015-02-09 15:07
Date reviewed: 2015-03-04 22:58

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A: Excellent	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	[ ] Accept
[ ] Grade B: Very good	[ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing	[ ] The same title	[ ] High priority for publication
[Y] Grade C: Good	[ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	[ ] Duplicate publication	[Y] Rejection
[ ] Grade D: Fair	[ ] Grade D: Rejected	[ ] Plagiarism	[ ] Minor revision
[ ] Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	[ ] Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		[ ] The same title	
		[ ] Duplicate publication	
		[ ] Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Given the age distribution of patients with predominantly female population, menopausal status- a known risk factor for NAFLD/NASH should be addressed in the population. Did not see among the stats run a regression taking out known associations with NAFLD/NASH - such as diabetes, etc to look at power of other predictors. Somewhat disconcerting re: study design that those with potential cirrhosis did not have the primary care provider informed re: results.