

Answering reviewers

Reviewers 1: NO answer.

Reviewers 2:

Question 1: The model's performance is good, however there are important limits due to methodological issues including small sample size, retroactive design, and inclusion of selected etiology.

Answer: This article was a retrospective study, we choose viral cirrhosis patients, because the liver and spleen volume change is different between patients with viral cirrhosis patients and alcoholic cirrhosis or autoimmune cirrhosis patients. The reliability of the results can be ensured by selecting only the patients with viral cirrhosis.

Question 2: Many important baseline characteristics, such platelet count, are missing.

Answer: The model was based on imaging measures. We analyzed the association between platelet count and esophageal varices and the results were not statistically significant.

Question 3: How was the cirrhosis diagnosed in this study?

Answer: The diagnosis of liver cirrhosis is based on symptoms, signs, biochemical tests and more than 2 kinds of imaging findings.

