



August 9, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 4026-review.doc).

**Title:** Is increased red cell distribution width (RDW) an indicating marker of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis and fibrotic stage?

**Author:** Mustafa Cengiz, Burcu A Candır, Güldal Yılmaz, Gülen Akyol, Seren Ozenirler

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 4026

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

- (1) The recommended references are added appropriately in to the introduction part.
- (2) In the discussion part the second paragraph is removed from the text and it's present just in the introduction part as recommended, appropriately.
- (3) The spelling mistakes are corrected.
- (4) The representative photographs for mild fibrosis and advanced fibrosis due to NASH are shown respectively.
- (5) In the method section the background of patients is more detailed and also the numbers of patients in fibrotic scores is added to the Figure.
- (6) Figure legends are addressed in the manuscript properly. The symbols in graphs are

clarified also.

- (7) The relationship between RDW values and viral hepatitis are discussed in the manuscript and new references about this topic are also added to the text.
- (8) We agree with reviewer about this concern. In our study we found only association with low platelet and fibrosis scores. Although there was not a markedly fall in platelet counts of NASH group but there was a relationship between platelet count and fibrotic scores. This association might be due to small cohort size. We believe this association may be confirmed more prominent in a large population based studies. We think that the small number of patients with cirrhosis (n=4) may cause this result. We discussed this phenomenon in the manuscript appropriately.
- (9) Typing and spelling errors in all over the manuscript are all corrected.
- (10) NASH and simple steatosis groups were biopsy proven, healthy controls were diagnosed by ultrasonography and the confusing parts are rewritten clearly and described more specifically in the manuscript.
- (11) The basic information of the patients are provided, in which hospital the biopsies were performed and beginning and lasting duration of the study were added to the manuscript.
- (12) Hepatic histopathological evaluation and getting the fibrotic scores verification of the pathological results are now described clearly in the manuscript according to the reviewer recommendations.
- (13) The introduction and discussion parts are now organized and well integrated in the manuscript by making some readjustments. The sentences those can be confusing are checked thoroughly in all over the manuscript carefully.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

Mustafa Cengiz, MD



Gazi University Faculty of Medicine Department of Gastroenterology

Ankara/Turkey

Tel : +90- 312-2027586

Fax: + 90- 312- 2213202

E-mail: [drmustafacen@gmail.com](mailto:drmustafacen@gmail.com)