

January 28th 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: revised manuscript 7427(1)).

Title: Noninvasive biomarkers in NAFLD; current status and a glimpse of the future

Authors: Emer Fitzpatrick and Anil Dhawan

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 7427

We are very grateful to the reviewers for their comments and address their suggestions below and as highlighted changes in the text.

Reviewer 1:

This is a very interesting and detailed review on a hot topic of hepatology as correctly outlined in the beginning of the manuscript. However, the plethora of information finally creates confusion to the reader (especially to the non-expert). To avoid this, I would suggest to reorganize the manuscript having in mind the following points: 1) focus on the best studied biomarkers/modules or those with the best performance.

We agree that there is a considerable amount of information in the text, thus we have deleted less accepted serum biomarkers in particular.

2) Table 1 gives too many information to be of help to anyone. Think of simplifying it or dividing it to smaller ones.

We have done this

3) avoid characterization of biomarkers based on their use in other liver diseases (e.g. HCV). The theme is just NAFLD.

We have removed references / biomarkers that are not used and validated extensively in NAFLD

4) make a clear separation of the performance of biomarkers/modules in adults and children. This could be done by gathering all ped info at the end of the manuscript.

We have separated out paediatric serum biomarkers – it is more difficult to do this with the imaging techniques as the flow of the text is then interrupted.

Reviewer 2

The manuscript provides an excellent review about non invasive biomarkers of NAFLD, from those that are currently being used in the clinical practice to methods that are still challenging but emerge as powerful means to improve the management of patients in the near future. It would be of great use for both clinical and basic scientist's communities.

We thank the reviewer for this kind comment.

Reviewer 3

Exhaustive overview on noninvasive biomarkers in NAFLD. Only minor observations: -“ Noninvasive markers of fibrosis in NAFLD “ check typing errors -please, spell terms in full when used for the first time in the text

We have made the revision as suggested.

References have been modified to include DOI.

We hope that the manuscript will now be found suitable for publication.

Very many thanks

Emer Fitzpatrick and Anil Dhawan.