

11676- Answering Reviewers

August 21, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 11676-edited.doc).

Title: Non-invasive diagnosis of advanced fibrosis and cirrhosis

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 11676

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Revisions have been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers:

(1) All formatting and referencing changes were made in accordance with the response from reviewer 00053580

(2) A table with the performance characteristics for selected serologic and radiologic tests has been added

(3) The main advantages and drawbacks to each method have also been added to the table

(4) The introduction section was shortened in response to comments from one reviewer

(5) The acronym for ELF was corrected to Enhanced Liver fibrosis

(6) The value of physical examination was stressed by some reviewers in the diagnosis of cirrhosis – we felt that while this is an important topic in its own right, this was not the central theme of this invited manuscript. The purpose of this review was to detail the various non-invasive tests available for the *diagnosis* of cirrhosis and fibrosis. Indeed, the seminal paper on the use of physical exam in the diagnosis of cirrhosis “*Does this patient with liver disease have cirrhosis?*” (JAMA. 2012 Feb 22;307(8):832-42) showed that combination non-invasive panels such as the Bonacini discriminant score and Lok index performed better than physical exam features at ruling in or ruling out cirrhosis respectively. In addition, physical exam alone will not help to differentiate between the stages of fibrosis prior to cirrhosis, and this was also one of the aims of this review.

3 References and typesetting were corrected as requested by the editors

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

Sincerely yours,

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