

Dear editors and reviewers,

On behalf of my co-authors, we thank you very much for giving us an opportunity to revise our manuscript. We appreciate the editors and reviewers very much for their positive and constructive comments and suggestions on our manuscript (Manuscript NO.: 72561, Observational Study). Those comments are very valuable and helpful for revising and improving our paper. We have studied the comments carefully and have made some modifications accordingly. Changes to the manuscript are marked in yellow in the paper. Attached please find the revised manuscript, which we would like to submit for your kind consideration. The responses to the reviewers' comments and the main modifications in the paper are listed below.

Responses to the comments

3 SCIENTIFIC QUALITY

Reviewer #2: This study is very specific in case of noncommon problem - the combination between NAFLD and chronic hepatitis B infection. Previously, I did not meet such research, thus, just this fact is important to pay the attention for this work. The authors present and improve the new marker - TC/HDL-C which has not been widely used previously. Based on this study, I do not agree about the association of NAFLD with chronic hepatitis B, as the essential factor, but I totally agree with such new predictor of fatty liver disease development or occurrence. Thus, I recommend this article to the publication and hope to see more investigations especially with using elastography instead ultrasound, because it is not specific for the NAFLD detection when the fat cells are less than 30% in liver. Moreover, my advice is to include to the study fibrosis indexes, which are very necessary in chronic hepatitis B infection, and, accordingly, in NAFLD patients. Briefly, the work is excellent just in its idea.

Response: Thank you very much for your recognition and recommended the publication of this article. We strongly agree with the reviewer's assessment that increased the indexes of fibrosis like hyaluronic acid, laminin, procollagen III peptide, collagen type IV and transient elastography. Fibrosis indicators contribute to evaluating the relationship between NAFLD and different stages of CHB. However, fibrosis indicators were not included in the analysis due to missing fibrosis data in the previous collection. Thus, we have added this as a limitation on the end of the article. For the next step of the study, we will focus on the relationship between fibrosis indexes and TC/HDL-C.

4 LANGUAGE POLISHING REQUIREMENTS

Authors are requested to send their revised manuscript to a professional English language editing company or a native English-speaking expert to polish the manuscript further. When the authors submit the subsequent polished manuscript to us, they must provide a new language certificate along with the manuscript.

Response: We sincerely thank the reviewer for careful reading. According to your suggestion, we have proofread the full manuscript again of grammar, syntax, formatting and other relevant errors, which were marked in yellow in the paper. In addition, our revised manuscript has been edited for language by native English-speaking experts.

5 ABBREVIATIONS

In general, do not use non-standard abbreviations, unless they appear at least two times in the text preceding the first usage/definition. Certain commonly used abbreviations, such as DNA, RNA, HIV, LD50, PCR, HBV, ECG, WBC, RBC, CT, ESR, CSF, IgG, ELISA, PBS, ATP, EDTA, and mAb, do not need to be defined and can be used directly.

Response: Thank you very much for your valuable suggestion. According to basic rules of abbreviations provided, we have proofread the full manuscript of abbreviations and marked in yellow in the paper.

6 EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

(1) Science editor:

Authors evaluated the prevalence of NAFLD in patients with CH(B), and found that TC/HDL-C ratio was useful to detect NAFLD. This work was interesting and useful in clinical setting. Authors should also discuss treatment or management for CH(B) with NAFLD.

Response: Thank you for thorough evaluation of the study and for your valuable advice. We have complemented relevant contents, please see details in the "Discussion" part (marked in yellow).

(2) Company editor-in-chief:

Question 1: The title of the manuscript is too long and must be shortened to meet the requirement of the journal (Title: The title should be no more than 18 words).

Response: Thank you so much for your valuable advice. We have revised the title “Correlation between the total cholesterol to high-density lipoprotein cholesterol ratio and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease in the chronic hepatitis B population” and marked in yellow in the paper. The current title is the most concise expression without abbreviations.

Question 2: Authors are required to provide standard three-line tables, that is, only the top line, bottom line, and column line are displayed, while other table lines are hidden. The contents of each cell in the table should conform to the editing specifications, and the lines of each row or column of the table should be aligned. Do not use carriage returns or spaces to replace lines or vertical lines and do not segment cell content.

Response: We feel great thanks for your professional review work on our article. On your recommendation, we have checked all tables in the text and modified table format to improve legibility.

8 COPYRIGHT LICENSE AGREEMENT & 9 CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORM

Response: We sincerely appreciate the valuable comments. We have submitted the “*Copyright License Agreement*” and the “*Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form*” in the submission system. There are no conflicts of interest regarding this study.