

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

March 30, 2015



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 17035-edited.doc).

Title: Burden of NAFLD and advanced fibrosis in a Texas Hispanic community cohort

Author: Jen-Jung Pan, Susan P Fisher-Hoch, Chaoru Chen, Ariel E Feldstein, Joseph B McCormick, Mohammad H Rahbar, Laura Beretta, Michael B Fallon

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 17035

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 reviewers

Reviewer 1 (ID 227406):

In addition to Hepatitis C, we also screened the participants for Hepatitis B. Eight participants were further excluded because of being positive for Hepatitis B surface antigen. We have run the statistical analyses again based on the new cohort. The changes are highlighted in the manuscript.

We did not perform comprehensive screening for other liver diseases such as hemochromatosis, autoimmune hepatitis, primary biliary cirrhosis, and primary sclerosing cholangitis in this population-based cohort. Nevertheless, these diseases are unlikely to affect our findings due to the low prevalence of these diseases and the study participants being asymptomatic.

Reviewer 2 (ID 2445063)

(1) The CCHC database did not capture the status of menopause in female participants. The aim of this study is to assess the potential burden of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) and advanced liver fibrosis in a Hispanic population cohort rather than to validate any risk factors such as menopause for NASH since we do not have histologic data. Nonetheless, we welcome the reviewer's suggestion and we plan to collect data on menopause status in the future.

(2) Diabetes is one of the parameters of the NAFLD fibrosis score and the BARD score. Therefore, we could not control diabetes in regression analysis if we wanted to study the association between these scores and fatty liver.

(3) More than 70% of the study participants have no health insurance and hence have no primary care provider. We always urge the participants to seek medical attention if we have concerns. Some of these people may return to Mexico for receiving medical care.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Pan' with a stylized flourish.

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