

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



February 27, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 15916-Review.doc) containing all of the modifications performed during revision (text in red with yellow highlight) and English editing (text in red).

Title: miR-122 negatively correlates with liver fibrosis as detected by histology and transient elastography. A retrospective study.

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

1 Format has been updated according to the requirements of retrospective study.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of reviewers

(1) Sentences have been included in the Discussion on a fibrosis indicator to be able to discriminate between intermediate stages of fibrosis.

(2) Necroinflammatory activity index (AT) has been added to Table 1 as histologic activity index (HAI).

(3) The requested *in situ* hybridization could not be performed because the tissue sizes remaining from the biopsy samples did not allow this investigation in the majority of cases.

(4) The RNU6B small nuclear RNA, suggested to be used as reference instead of miR-140, is the shorter variant of U6 snRNA that was a candidate for reference in the presented study. However, we found U6 snRNA to be the least stable in fibrotic liver tissues. Moreover, this snRNA proved to be unstable in our other examinations as well, for example in steatotic chronic hepatitis C, cirrhotic, HCC and FNH tissues. By contrast, miR-140 was found to be the most stably expressed in the present sample set. Furthermore, miR-140 is reported to be the reference in a study investigating HCV-related HCC samples (Varnholt et al, *Hepatology*, 2008, 47:1223-32).

(5) Examining a validation cohort has not been performed but is planned.

(6) The English proofreading was carried out by a person having lived for 20 years in Australia.

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

Sincerely yours,

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