



ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 23401

Title: A significant cohort of NAFLD with portal vein thrombosis in transplant waiting list

Reviewer's code: 00504828

Reviewer's country: United States

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2015-11-16 08:49

Date reviewed: 2015-11-26 09:12

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The mortality rate of this cohort is notably higher than other studies, and it would be important to discuss potential risk factors that are making such difference.

Major comments:

1. Page 11, lines 21~31 "Our observation of higher mortality rates...hepatitis B and C after HCC developed, respectively.". In the following sentences, the authors discuss possible explanations. It is potentially important to understand why the cohort of this study showed significantly higher mortality in comparison to other previous studies in different ethnic groups. I think it is fair to ask more possible explanations - **such as ethnic background or food culture**. On the other hand, as the authors described in "introduction", at least, the progression of fibrosis and cirrhosis in NAFLD patients is not likely to differ among different ethnic groups. Thus, analytical and thorough discussion will be necessary. **Has anyone reported correlation between genetic background and/or ethnicity and NAFLD risk? I also wonder how many studies have been done to date to correlate life style with the risk of NAFLD.**

Au-reply: We thank the reviewer for his/her constructive criticisms. Per the comment above, we improved the section, as shown in red in the text at the end of the second paragraph of the discussion.

2. As other studies also classified NASH, I wonder why this study did not describe anything about NASH.

Au-reply: All of our patients in this study had NASH-related cirrhosis. There is no simple steatosis or

any form of NASH, except cirrhosis. This has been clarified in the text.

3. As all patients are Turkish origin, it would be interesting (and important) to classify ethnic groups of patients. Such additional analyses would help discussion related to my major question 1.

Au-reply: In Turkey, there is not as much ethnic diversity as in the US. Hence, once can consider that our cohort is more ethnically homogenous (All patients were Caucasians of Turkish origin). This point was highlighted in the second paragraph of the discussion.

4. I think the authors may articulate the purpose of this study clearer - based on the title and the last part of the discussion section, the final goal of this study is to discuss NAFLD patients in liver transplant waiting list. I feel that somewhat this liver transplant issue is fuzzy throughout the main text, except abstract.

Au-reply: We improved the section according to the reviewers' comments and shown in red at the next to the last paragraph of the discussion.

Minor comments

1. What is "Child A" patients (page 4, line 20)? It would be nice to have a very brief introduction for non-experts.

Au reply: we replaced Child A with compensated cirrhosis.

2. Page 4, lines 21~22 "Risk factors for NAFLD-associated cirrhosis...differ from those in the West.". Is there any literatures suggesting it? It would be great to have reference(s) here.

Au reply: We clarified the statement to avoid misunderstanding. The reviewer is correct insofar as there is no literature to support the statement. The new statement reads: "It is possible that risk factors for NAFLD-associated cirrhosis and HCC in Eastern countries differ from those in the West."

3. Figure 2. Can you prepare the figure better -

With pdf conversion the Figure looks hazy. We will provide originals via email during publication.

4. Page 6, line "...throughself-reporting...". I guess there must be a space between through and self-reporting?

Au-reply: We took care of this and of other similar typos.



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5. The authors can just show abbreviations after their first appearance with full-spelling.

Au-reply: We took care of this issue.

6. Some minor English things - for example, as manifested in page 13, "...NAFLD associated..." should be "...NAFLD-associated...". Others 1. This is NOT a comment that is not necessary to be addressed in this manuscript review process: Related to the discussion in page 12: If the authors keep serum samples from patients for ELISA (as described in "Materials and methods"), it would not be difficult to measure a few cytokines (TNF-?, IL-6 etc.). It would be important to test the hypothesis that adipose macrophages may be involved in the status of NAFLD. I see that this is a retrospective study and the authors can test easily in the future as long as the center has leftover of collected serum samples. Such explorative experiments might provide new data for a following paper.

Au -reply: We thank the reviewer. We actually plan to do so as a follow-up study. We will do so in collaboration with Dr Najjar, a co-author on the current manuscript.



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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 23401

Title: A significant cohort of NAFLD with portal vein thrombosis in transplant waiting list

Reviewer's code: 00058872

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2015-11-16 08:49

Date reviewed: 2015-11-27 02:10

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Patients should be stratified and analyzed for severity of liver cirrhosis using the Child-Pugh classification, as reported in... Blood ammonia levels in liver cirrhosis: a clue for the presence of portosystemic collateral veins. BMC Gastroenterol. 2009 Mar 17;9:21 The role of large shunts also ought to be sought as clearly evidenced in... What are the implications of the spontaneous spleno-renal shunts in liver cirrhosis? BMC Gastroenterol. 2009 Nov 24;9:89. These two articles should also be quoted in the references list to give readers a wider view of the topic.

Au-reply: We thank the reviewer for his/her enthusiasm. We revised the manuscript extensively per this and the comments of Reviewer 1. In this revision, we added the two aforementioned references (references 44 and 45).



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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 23401

Title: A significant cohort of NAFLD with portal vein thrombosis in transplant waiting list

Reviewer's code: 02944884

Reviewer's country: Croatia

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2015-11-16 08:49

Date reviewed: 2015-12-07 18:09

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The data are interesting and important. The english is good.I suggest the acceptance of manuscript.

Au-reply: We thank the reviewer for his/her enthusiasm and support.