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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology
ESPS manuscript NO: 30650
Title: Concordance of non-invasive mechanical and serum tests for liver fibrosis evaluation in chronic hepatitis C
Reviewer's code: 03665102
Reviewer's country: Italy
Science editor: Yuan Qi
Date sent for review: 2016-10-12 19:41
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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A: Excellent	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	[ ] Accept
[ ] Grade B: Very good	[Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing	[ ] The same title	[ ] High priority for publication
[Y] Grade C: Good	[ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	[ ] Duplicate publication	[ ] Rejection
[ ] Grade D: Fair	[ ] Grade D: Rejected	[ ] Plagiarism	[Y] Minor revision
[ ] Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	[ ] Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		[ ] The same title	
		[ ] Duplicate publication	
		[ ] Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This study is addressed to evaluate the diagnostic performance and the concordance of different noninvasive methods for the evaluation of liver fibrosis (APRI, FIB-4, transient elastography, ARFI) in 81 patients with chronic hepatitis C, most of them with biopsy-proven diagnosis. The authors concluded that FIB-4, ARFI and transient elastography are useful tests for the noninvasive assessment of liver fibrosis, with a good concordance. The study is not original, since it confirms literature data and scientific guidelines. Furthermore, a limitation of the study is the small sample size. Nevertheless, the study design is appropriate and the study population is well characterized. I'm only questioning about some factors that could affect the accuracy of these noninvasive tests: the amount of alcohol consumed should be described, since a mixed etiology of liver damage (HCV + alcohol) could affect the study results, especially in terms of elastographic measurements. The same consideration may apply to the presence of steatosis (alcoholic or nonalcoholic) or the degree of inflammation, since their degree could affect the elastographic measurements. This information should be reported.