25-july-2023

Dear Prof Dr., Samah Soliman,

You submitted a manuscript AJGH-2306-1035entitled "The gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase to platelet ratio (GPR) and the gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase to albumin (GAR) versus fibroscan as indicators of hepatic fibrosis in Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease Patients" to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and hepatology.  The reviewer's comments (s) are included at the end of this email.

The reviewers have requested revisions to your manuscript.  Therefore, I invite you to respond to the reviewers' comments and revise your manuscript. Instructions on how to do this can be found at the bottom of this email.

Because we are trying to facilitate the timely publication of manuscripts submitted to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, your revised manuscript should be submitted as soon as possible.

Once again, thank you for submitting your manuscript to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, and I look forward to receiving your revision.

Sincerely,

Salem Y Mohamed

Chief Editor, African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Please, revise your manuscript using a word processing program and save it on your computer.  Please also highlight the changes to your manuscript within the document using the track changes mode in MS Word or using bold or colored text.

Once the revised manuscript is prepared, you can send it to me via email.

When submitting your revised manuscript, please provide your responses and details of changes made to each comment in an Author Response Letter.  To expedite the processing of the revised manuscript, please be as specific as possible in your response to the reviewers.

**Reviewer Comments to Author:**

**Reviewer1:**

1- The paper needs a simple review of spelling and grammar.

2- Introduction: you mean NAFLD or MAFLD, and you don't say in abbreviation.

3- Result: \* Numbers must be formatted in the fields of Table 2.

\* It is better to separate the early and advanced fibrosis results into two tables.

\* Table (3) non-significant between GAR and steatosis scores.

\* It is preferable to put the details of each table below.

4- Discussion: \* GAR not significant e steatosis score.

\* Patients with HBV were excluded from the study, and no HBV results were reported in your study.

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**Reviewer 2:**

This article addresses an important clinical topic and should interest readers. In the present study, the authors assessed the diagnostic performance of some serum biomarkers compared with fibroscan to exclude advanced hepatic fibrosis in patients with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. The study design and statistical analyses are adequate but contain minor flaws. However, a few defects in the methodology need to be modified. Also, some other minor issues have been mentioned in the “comments to the authors.” Overall, it is a critical study and should be considered for publication once these issues have been resolved.

The manuscript presents exciting and clinically significant results. A few issues, however, need to be addressed:

1) The paper requires correcting several grammar, punctuation, and abbreviations errors.

2) The authors should introduce the full term first, followed by the abbreviation in parenthesis.

3) There are a few minor typographical errors, e.g., steatosis in results needs to be spelled correctly.

Title:

• The authors should avoid using abbreviations in the title.

• Title should be written in sentence case.

Abstract:

• The authors should rearrange abstract sections and background first, then the aim.

• Aim: “to assess the efficacy...”. I suggest changing “efficacy“to “accuracy” since the purpose of the study is diagnostic and not therapeutic. Please correct this sentence in the abstract and introduction sections.

• Background: “… but a little of these markers...” Please rephrase this sentence.

• Patients and Methods: “The correlation between them and liver stiffness measurement (LSM) was compared.” The authors should note that correlation is a non-comparative test, a relation between two parameters. Also, what is meant by “them”? Please clarify the sentence.

• Patients and Methods: “The accuracy of predicting liver fibrosis was assessed.” What is meant by “what”? The meaning of the sentence was confusing. Please rewrite it.

• Results: “…the results yield that GPR (B 3.424, P <0.001\*) and GAR (B 0.175, P <0.001\*) was the independent predictors for advanced hepatic”. Rewrite the sentence. It seems to be a “fibrosis” missing at the end of the sentence. Also, there is no need to write the regression coefficient value.

• Conclusions had to be rewritten considering the regression analysis and ROC curve results.

Introduction:

• The second paragraph: Given the significant changes in diagnostic criteria between MAFLD and NAFLD, authors shouldn’t interchange. The authors need to describe the prevalence of NAFLD.

**Reviewer 3:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Raw number | comment |
| Abstract | |
|  | The background should be before the aim. |
| 22 | GPR & GAR were positively correlated with the hepatic degree of fibrosis |
| Introduction | |
| 50, 52 | What is meant by MAFLD |
| 55 | What is meant by NASH |
| 63 | Lemoine should be in bold font. |
| 68 | HE should be in bold font. |
| 71 | Lie should be in bold font. |
| 72 | What is meant by CHB |
| Patient and methods | |
| 83 | What is meant by CAP determination |
| 85 to 88 | Exclusion criteria should be revised as regard grammar and punctuation marks. |
| 95 to 102 | **Laboratory investigations** should be revised as regard grammar and punctuation marks. |
| 105 | What is meant by TE |
| Results | |
| Table 1 | What is meant by History of regimen |
| Comments on tables should be below the table, not above. | |
| **Discussion** | |
| 219 | (the Egyptian guidelines for MAFLD recommended that The exclusion of high risk of significant fibrosis) wrong grammar and spelling |
| 221 | What is meant by VCTE |
| References | |
| Should be revised as regard configuration and grammar | |

**reviewer 4**

The authors discussed non-invasive predictors of hepatic fibrosis among patients with NAFLD, the work focuses on an interesting issue, but we have some comments:

1- MAFLD: Please define before first use

Also, the newly introduced terminology MAFLD changed fatty liver disease from a disease of exclusion to an illness of inclusion based on new inclusion criteria, and it looks better than NAFLD in predicting the prognosis and outcomes.

So please define which one you will follow in your study NAFLD or MAFLD

2- The chapter results need re-writing and subheadings

3- How sample size was calculated

4- A clear message from this study should be: These markers are predictors of what stage of fibrosis among NAFLD patients (early, advanced, or both); please make it clear.

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**Editor Comments to Author:**

1. Please check the author names and affiliations included on your Title Page, mainly that the spelling of all authors' names is correct. They are cited in the order you wish them to appear in the final article. In addition, each author's affiliation details are correct.

2. Please include a 'Structured Abstract': not more than 250 words, broken down into, i.e., Aims, Patients & Methods/Materials & Methods, Results, and Conclusions. For authors presenting the results of clinical trials, the guidelines recommended by CONSORT should be followed when writing the abstract (http://www.consort-statement.org/), and the clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract, where available.

3. Please include up to 10 keywords in your revised manuscript (including the four keywords you selected as part of the submission process).

4. Please amend the references as per the author's guidelines:

a. References should be numerically listed in the reference section in the order they occur in the text.

b. References should appear as a number, i.e., [1, 2] in the text.

c. References should cite three authors et al.: it is our house style to list a maximum of six authors, and if there is more than this, three authors et al.

5. Please ensure all tables and boxes are titled and cited in the text. Three-line tables are preferred.

Please find a link to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Author Guidelines, which explains these sections in more detail: <https://ajgh.journals.ekb.eg/journal/authors.note>.

6. please check the PDF file of your manuscript regarding plagiarism checking.

7. Please add the scale bar, annotations, magnifications, and program that generated these figures. Also, it is better to submit figures with high resolution and brightness.