30-december-2023

Dear Prof Dr. Shimaa Moustafa Mansour

You submitted a manuscript AJGH-2311-1044 entitled " The Potential Role Of Platelet Indices And Red Cell Distribution Width In Metabolic Dysfunction -Associated Fatty Liver Disease." 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: (SS)**

In an interesting, non-sophisticated way, you try to find a non-invasive method to assess the severity of MAFLD by platelet indices and RDW.
It is known that diminished erythropoiesis due to free radicals from an ongoing inflammatory state associated with MAFLD will increase RDW. Still, RDW is affected by iron and vb12 levels closely related to erythropoiesis and will affect RDW. So, you need to assess iron and vB12 levels as they are confounding factors that can affect RDW.

Regarding platelet indices, you don't explain the proposed mechanism. The inflammatory state created in MAFLD associated with diminished thrombopoiesis results in an increase in MPV. This altered platelet is called the pro-inflammatory phenotype that enhances sinusoidal endothelial leucocyte recruitment, leading to the propagation of the inflammatory process in MAFLD.

You need to add RPR indices that measure RDW to platelet count, a known parameter investigated, before adding to your results for more validation, which will cost nothing.

You say that a fibro scan is costly. Why don't you use well-known noninvasive parameters to assess the severity of MAFLD, like FIB4 and APRI, and even compare the results from these scores with fibro scan results to investigate their accuracy?

**Reviewer 2: (MS)**

**Check the uploaded file.**

**Reviewer3: (AF)**

accept**.**

‎**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>.

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