

Novel criteria to differentiate fibrosis from steatohepatitis

March 5 2010

Alcoholic liver disease (ALD) is the most common cause of liver cirrhosis in the Western world. Liver biopsy is currently considered the gold standard for assessing hepatic fibrosis or cirrhosis in these patients.

However, it is an [invasive procedure](#), with rare but potentially life-threatening complications and its accuracy is limited due to sampling error. Transient elastography (FibroScan®, FS) is a novel rapid and noninvasive method to assess [liver fibrosis](#) via measurement of liver stiffness (LS). Although LS closely correlates with fibrosis stage, it also increases in patients with inflammation (steatohepatitis) which often confounds fibrosis in patients with ALD. Thus, novel criteria are urgently required to determine whether LS is increased due to fibrosis or inflammation.

A research article published on February 28, 2010 in the [World Journal of Gastroenterology](#) addresses this question. The research team lead by Dr. Sebastian Mueller from Heidelberg University identified in their recent study novel bedside criteria that allowed the differentiation of cirrhosis from inflammation in patients with ALD.

Their results showed that active inflammation of the liver (steatohepatitis) should be excluded first by blood tests prior to the noninvasive assessment of liver fibrosis by transient elastography. If glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase levels are

These novel criteria probably also hold true for other liver disease.

More information: Mueller S, Millonig G, Sarovska L, Friedrich S, Reimann FM, Pritsch M, Eisele S, Stickel F, Longrich T, Schirmacher P, Seitz HK. Increased liver stiffness in alcoholic liver disease: Differentiating fibrosis from steatohepatitis. World J Gastroenterol 2010; 16(8): 966-972. www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/16/966.asp

Provided by World Journal of Gastroenterology

Citation: Novel criteria to differentiate fibrosis from steatohepatitis (2010, March 5) retrieved 15 December 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2010-03-criteria-differentiate-fibrosis-steatohepatitis.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.