Reviewer's report

Title: Nine-year incident diabetes is predicted by fatty liver indices: The French D.E.S.I.R. study

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Reviewer: Melania Manco

Reviewer's report:

Balkau and Coll. aim to verify the effectiveness of 2 recently developed mathematical indexes to predict incident T2DM, the FLI and the NAFLD-FLS. Both indexes use surrogates of the MetS and liver enzymes.

To accomplish their aim, the researchers use data from a large cohort study, the DESIR. Incident diabetes was estimated using as markers prescription of anti diabetic drugs and values of fasting PG #7.0 mmol/l.

In this context, the manuscript may deserve publication as background for future epidemiological studies. I think the manuscript can be improved by discussing the high OR for T2DM which was observed in women with a FLI >70 and/or by discussing the utility of such indexes as compared with traditional risk factors. The authors present some of these results in the table but there is no discussion.

Major comment:
1. The risk for diabetes was particularly high in women with a FLI >70 (OR 37). This gender related effect deserves additional analysis and discussion, i.e. in relation to an effect of the menopause.
2. Please, make clear which is the plus value of the FLI index or of the NAFLD-FLS respect to common predictors of T2DM such as familiarity for the disease. Do the indexes identify different samples of high-risk individuals as compared with traditional risk factors?

Minor comments:
1. Bedogni and not Bedogini (page 3)
2. BMI and not (BM)I (page 3)
3. In the introduction there is no need to talk about CRP or NEFA or TNF-alpha as these measures do not enter the FLI or the NAFLD-FLS scores. May be the authors want to highlight the concept that the NAFLD can be considered the hepatic component of the MetS and that component of the syndrome enter both the indexes.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests