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:** Llorenç Caballeria

**Reviewer's report:**

Overall this is a good article especially because of the size of the sample studied, the years of follow up and the invasive approach of predicting diabetes and the progression of fatty liver used. There are, however, several considerations which should be addressed.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

The authors conclude that the two indexes studied predict the incidence of diabetes. However, I have doubts with respect to the utility of the HAFLD-FLS index. The authors should clarify this aspect since the utility of this index is limited by the inclusion of diabetes and fasting insulin in its definition. I do not understand how the presence of diabetes can be predicted if being diabetic is included in the definition.

In the limitations the authors recognize the absence of imaging tests for the follow up of fatty liver. The doubts presented are: Is the determination of these indexes sufficient to suspect the progression of fatty liver? Perhaps it would be interesting to at least do abdominal echographies to confirm the progression of fatty liver at the same time as performing the indexes to thereby support the importance of these indexes.

It is strange that the authors did not consider the use of abdominal echography which is very usual, inexpensive and non invasive. The authors should address these questions.

**Discretionary Revisions**

The authors show the incidence of diabetes at the end of the nine years of follow up. Since the patients were examined every three years, I believe that it would enrich the manuscript if the authors were to report the incidence of diabetes at each visit.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.