Reviewer’s report

Title: Non-invasive Score Identifies Ultrasound-diagnosed Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease and Predicts Mortality in United States

Version: 1 Date: 29 July 2014

Reviewer: Helena Cortez-Pinto

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well-written and interesting study, evaluating the accuracy of several non-invasive markers of NAFLD in predicting the presence of steatosis and cardiovascular and liver-related mortality.

It has the advantage of using a large database, with a very significant number of individuals included and a long-time follow-up.

Criticisms and suggestions
1) In Methods, when you state: “we defined NAFLD as none + mild vs. moderate+ severe”, you mean that you defined NAFLD when moderate + severe steatosis was present, but the phrase is ambiguous. Please clarify.

2) A prevalence of NAFLD of 18.4% was found. This value is quite lower than what is found in the majority of studies. That should be discussed in Discussion.

3) Supplementary figure 2 a and b, in my opinion should be in the main MS. I think they are easier to read and understand than figure 1 of the text.

4) Although NAFLD fibrosis score is not a non-invasive score to predict NAFLD, I think it would have been interesting to use it and compare it with the others, as a predictor of NAFLD and mostly as a predictor of liver and cardiovascular mortality.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

No, I have no conflict of interest regarding the present MS