

HAEMATOLOGICAL PARAMETERS IN PATIENTS WITH NON-ALCOHOLIC FATTY LIVER DISEASE AND ALCOHOLIC LIVER DISEASE: CONCERN ON FINDINGS

Dear Sir,

The recent publication "Comparison of haematological parameters in patients with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and alcoholic liver disease" is very interesting. Das et al concluded that "chronic alcoholism is associated with inflammation and haematotoxic effects, while non-alcoholic fatty liver disease has limited effect on haematological parameters."⁽¹⁾ The finding is very interesting; however, there are other factors that might limit the generalisability of this conclusion. First, the authors did not completely rule out other underlying confounding factors that might alter the haematological parameters. The common problems include the patients' iron status and underlying congenital haemoglobin disorders (such as haemoglobinopathies and thalassaemias). Second, although it is not a serious concern, the analysis of haematological parameters has to be done under the same conditions, with the same automated haematological analyser.

Yours sincerely,

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REFERENCES

1. Das SK, Mukherjee S, Vasudevan DM, Balakrishnan V. Comparison of haematological parameters in patients with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and alcoholic liver disease. Singapore Med J 2011;175-81.