threshold may differ in each person, at present, we cannot specify what distinguishes individuals who develop fatty liver as a result of alcohol consumption from those who do not.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts to disclose regarding funding or other conflicts of interest with respect to this manuscript.

References

research that want to investigate the complex pathway among severity of liver damage, visceral obesity, insulin resistance and cardiac functional and structural abnormalities.

Finally, we have to highlight a crucial inaccuracy in the logistic multivariate model (see Table 2 in original manuscript) two related variables as visceral obesity (computed from waist circumference measured in each patient) and epicardial fat thickness. It is widely known that epicardial fat thickness clearly reflects visceral adiposity. In particular, Iacobellis et al. [10] demonstrated that waist circumference is one of the best predictors of epicardial adipose tissue. So the inclusion of the two variables in the same logistic predictor model defines the phenomenon of collinearity. This event takes place when two or more independent variables are almost nearly perfectly correlated. When they are used in the same model as predictors, an important statistical assumption of the multivariate analysis is violated. Consequently, collinearity results in uninterpretable and biased parameter estimates and inflated standard errors. The authors ought to have used the term of abdominal obesity instead of visceral since pericardial fat is just a measure of the visceral fat. Moreover, abdominal obesity and epicardial fat thickness variables should never be inputted as predictors into the model together. On the contrary, only one of the two variables should be inputted at a time together with other predictors. Conclusions should be based on suggestions from adjusted Odds Ratios and their confidence intervals. This computational mistake could have partially changed the results and discussion sections. We hope that these suggestions will be useful for the readers to formulate the right opinion about these findings that remain crucial and stimulate further research in this field of liver diseases.

Conflict of interest

The authors declared that they do not have anything to disclose regarding funding or conflict of interest with respect to this manuscript.

References


Salvatore Corrao*
2nd Internal Medicine Department, National Relevance Hospital Trust, ARNAS Civico, Di Cristina e Benfratelli, Palermo, Italy Centre of Research for Effectiveness and Appropriateness in Medicine (CREAM), Biomedical Department of Internal Medicine and Subspecialties [DIBIMIS], University of Palermo, Italy *Corresponding author.
E-mail address: salvatore.corrao@unipa.it

Carmelina Rinallo
2nd Internal Medicine Department, National Relevance Hospital Trust, ARNAS Civico, Di Cristina e Benfratelli, Palermo, Italy

Rosario Scaglione
Centre of Research for Effectiveness and Appropriateness in Medicine (CREAM), Biomedical Department of Internal Medicine and Subspecialties [DIBIMIS], University of Palermo, Italy

Letters to the Editor