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## Tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases-1, hyaluronan and chronic hepatitis

*Metalloproteinazlar-1 doku inhibitörü, hyaluronan ve kronik hepatit*

*To the Editor,*

We read with great interest a recent report on “serum connective tissue markers as predictors of advanced fibrosis in patients with chronic hepatitis B and D” (1). According to this work, tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases-1 and hyaluronan were powerful predictors, and Seven et al. (1) proposed that “advanced liver fibrosis in chronic hepatitis B and D may be predicted” based on these two biomarkers. Apart from simple problems regarding the small number of subjects and lack of data on quality control of the test, there are some issues to

be discussed. There are some previous reports on the diagnostic properties of tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases-1 and hyaluronan. It should be noted that high negative predictive value but low positive predictive value can be seen (2). Thus, these markers should be useful for “ruling out” but not “definitively diagnosing” severe fibrosis. In addition, some other possible confounding diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and gastric cancer can significantly affect the diagnostic properties of the markers (3,4).

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