



## Letter to the editor regarding “The ZJU index is a powerful index for identifying NAFLD in the general Chinese population”

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Dear editor,

I read with interest the study of Li et al. entitled “The ZJU index is a powerful index for identifying NAFLD in the general Chinese populations”. The authors showed promising AUROC than other currently used NAFLD indices. However, there is a critical mistake in the formula that authors used. In the article, the authors showed visceral adiposity index (VAI) =  $[WC/39.68 + (1.88 \times BMI)] \times (TG/1.03) \times (1.31/HDL)$  for males and  $[WC/36.58 + (1.89 \times BMI)] \times (TG/0.81) \times (1.52/HDL)$  for females.

However, VAI should be as follows:

$VAI = [WC/(39.68 + (1.88 \times BMI))] \times (TG/1.03) \times (1.31/HDL)$  for males and  $[WC/(36.58 + (1.89 \times BMI))] \times (TG/0.81) \times (1.52/HDL)$  for females [1].

This should be clarified clearly; otherwise, it will make following readers wrong analyses which hampered the future science development. Technically, I have another question for the authors that developed the ZJU index [2]. How did they choose the name “ZJU index”? I try to help the readers

like me to raise the question. Other NAFLD indices are based on abbreviation, such as fatty liver index (FLI) and hepatic steatosis index (HSI).

I hope the authors will be able to make correction of the formula of VAI.

### References

1. Amato MC, Giordano C, Galia M et al (2010) Visceral adiposity index (VAI): a reliable indicator of visceral fat function associated with cardiometabolic risk. *Diabetes Care* 33:920–922
2. Wang J, Xu C, Xun Y et al (2015) ZJU index: a novel model for predicting nonalcoholic fatty liver disease in a Chinese population. *Sci Rep* 5:16494

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