Supporting Table 1 The Beijing fibrosis classification

classification	contents
Predominantly progressive	Defined as most (more than 50%) fibroseptal stroma in the LBx, showing wide/broad, loosely aggregated collagen fibers, often a mix of light and dark staining fibers upon trichrome staining, which are moderately to markedly cellular and contain, variably, inflammatory cells, macrophages, and ductular reactions
Indeterminate	Defined as an uncertain mix/balance between progressive and regressive scarring. If the examining pathologist cannot come to a conclusion as to whether progressive or regressive scarring predominates, or is tempted to go to higher magnification in order to assess the balance, the specimen is categorized as indeterminate
Predominately regressive	Defined as most (more than 50%) fibroseptal stroma in the LBx, showing features of HRC, namely, thin, densely compacted stroma, largely dark upon trichrome staining, which are largely acellular

Hepatic repair complex (HRC): delicate perforated fibrous septa; isolated thick collagen fibers; delicate periportal fibrous spikes; hepatocytes within or splitting septa; portal tract remnants; hepatic vein remnants with prolapsed hepatocytes; aberrant parenchymal veins and minute regenerative nodules of buds

Supporting Table 2 Baseline clinical characteristics of three groups classified according to the Beijing standard

Characteristics	Progressive	Indeterminate	Regressive	P Value
N (%)	14	9	45	
Age (years), mean	62.52 (54.78-65.32)	56.08 (54.06-64.41)	57.49 (55.24-62.98)	0.43
Male gender, n (%)	1 (7.1)	4 (44.4%)	17 (37.8%)	0.72
BMI (kg/m^2), mean	27.66±2.86	27.16±2.67	26.10±3.57	0.28
WHR, mean	0.89±0.06	0.92±0.04	0.91±0.05	0.48
Hypertension, n (%)	7 (50)	5 (55.6%)	22 (48.9%)	0.94
Diabetes, n (%)	3 (21.4)	0（0）	7 (15.6%)	0.45
Hyperlipidemia, n (%)	5 (35.7)	2 (22.2%)	13 (28.9%)	0.85
Treatment method				0.01
PEG ± RBV	0	2	16	
DAA	9	4	10	
PR + DAA	5	3	19	
PLT (per nL), IQR	134.00 (87.75-195.75)	146.00 (124.50-200.00)	145.00 (116.50-185.50)	0.58
ALT (U/L), IQR	52.50 (20.73-91.00)	48.90 (31.65-64.50)	60.70 (35.65-96.85)	0.32
AST (U/L), IQR	51.95 (33.65-80.85)	51.80 (37.90-58.00)	50.20 (36.15-71.60)	0.93
ALT/AST	0.99±0.41	1.00±0.27	1.23±0.36	0.04
ALB (g/L), IQR	42.30 (39.10-45.60)	44.40 (43.00-46.35)	44.20 (42.30-46.70)	0.17
Bilirubin (μmol/L), IQR	17.40 (13.50-23.80)	14.20 (12.15-18.05)	17.45 (13.90-22.43)	0.35
PT (s), IQR	11.25 (10.90-11.45)	11.50 (11.10-11.55)	11.45 (10.80-12.30)	0.74
INR, IQR	1.00 (0.97-1.02)	1.03 (0.99-1.10)	1.04 (0.97-1.11)	0.58
HCV genotype				0.88
1b	11	7	33	
2a	1	0	6	
Untyped	2	2	6	
LSM, kPa, IQR	14.35 (11.33-27.33)	13.40(10.35-22.25)	10.65 (8.10-12.93)	0.01
CAP (dB/m), mean	259.00±55.39	241.13±28.31	235.09±41.32	0.39
APRI, IQR	0.98 (0.74-2.42)	0.91（0.51-1.29）	0.99 (0.63-1.71)	0.71
FIB-4, IQR	3.51 (2.55-5.63)	2.51（1.96-3.76）	2.68 (1.86-3.67)	0.21

Supporting Table 3 Predictors of fibrosis regression by univariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis

Baseline variables	Univariate analysis			Multivariate analysis		
	β	SE	P Value	β	SE	P Value
Age	-0.08	0.05	0.14			
Male gender	-2.11	1.08	0.05			
BMI	-0.12	0.09	0.18			
Hypertension	0.00	0.60	1.00			
Diabetes	-0.61	0.77	0.62			
Hyperlipidemia	-0.37	0.64	0.56			
HCV genotype 1b versus 2a	0.00	0.67	1.00			
IFN-free versus IFN-based therapy	-0.85	0.45	0.06			
Platelet	0.01	0.01	0.33			
ALT	0.01	0.01	0.44			
AST	0.00	0.01	0.86			
ALT/AST	1.99	1.08	0.07			
ALB	0.17	0.10	0.11			
Bilirubin	0.01	0.04	0.89			
LSM	-0.13	0.05	0.01	-0.19	0.07	0.00
CAP	-0.01	0.01	0.13			
ΔLSM	1.52	0.82	0.06	3.04	1.32	0.02
ΔFIB-4	0.99	0.67	0.14			
ΔAPRI	0.82	0.62	0.19			

Supporting Table 4 A decrease in noninvasive fibrosis indicators cannot predict the pathological recovery of liver fibrosis

Characteristics	Progressive N=14	Nonprogressive N=54	P Value
LSM baseline - LSM puncture kPa, mean	2.57±9.34	4.06±4.09	0.58
(LSM baseline - LSM puncture)/LSM baseline IQR	0.20 (0.04-0.41)	0.32 (0.15-0.46)	0.42
FIB-4 baseline - FIB-4 puncture IQR	0.92 (0.12-1.78)	0.77 (0.14-1.77)	0.91
(FIB-4 baseline - FIB-4 puncture)/FIB-4 baseline IQR	0.23 (0.02-0.47)	0.27 (0.09-0.47)	0.68
APRI baseline - APRI puncture IQR	0.53 (0.34-0.67)	0.53 (0.23-1.01)	0.86
(APRI baseline - APRI puncture)/APRI baseline IQR	0.51 (0.42-0.68)	0.59 (0.41-0.75)	0.47