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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 37330

Title: Vitamin D deficiency and viral hepatitis-associated liver diseases: a literature review

Reviewer's code: 01555255

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Date sent for review: 2017-11-29

Date reviewed: 2017-11-29

Review time: 6 Hours

| CLASSIFICATION | LANGUAGE EVALUATION | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT | CONCLUSION |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | Google Search: | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor | | BPG Search: | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | |

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

- HBV and VD: SNPs genetic variants are related with changes in VD function in HBV infected patients. Low levels of VD, can also influence the reply to antiviral treatment. - HCV and VD: the role of VD to improve the levels of fibrosis markers, has been studied. Please include these data in this section. - Viral hepatitis and HIV: recently some papers are published on the VD levels in co-infected patients. I suggest to include a new section. - Figure: i suggest also to made a figure that summarize the role of low levels of VD in HBV and HCV infection.



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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 37330

Title: Vitamin D deficiency and viral hepatitis-associated liver diseases: a literature review

Reviewer's code: 02528832

Reviewer's country: Spain

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Date sent for review: 2017-11-29

Date reviewed: 2017-12-06

Review time: 7 Days

| CLASSIFICATION | LANGUAGE EVALUATION | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT | CONCLUSION |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | Google Search: | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor | | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision |
| | | BPG Search: | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> No | |

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The review is adequate in terms of major clinically relevant information. However, some aspects relative to the interaction of inflammation-vitaminD deficiency-progression of viral disease, as well as vitamin D deficiency-cytokines-fibrogenesis could be expanded. There are some typos and spelling errors.



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 37330

Title: Vitamin D deficiency and viral hepatitis-associated liver diseases: a literature review

Reviewer’s code: 02950631

Reviewer’s country: United States

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Date sent for review: 2017-11-29

Date reviewed: 2017-12-09

Review time: 10 Days

| CLASSIFICATION | LANGUAGE EVALUATION | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT | CONCLUSION |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | Google Search: | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor | | BPG Search: | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision |
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| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | |

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript is a review of the literature about the vitamin D deficiency and its association with liver diseases influenced by viral hepatitis, primarily hepatitis B and C viruses (HBV, HCV). The authors initially provide a general overview of vitamin D metabolism and function itself, and then discuss issues related to vitamin D deficiency, its prevalence around the world, and potential reasons for deficiency and the variation among different populations. Afterwards, the authors discuss the literature on vitamin D deficiency and its association and/or relevance to HBV and HCV, liver cirrhosis (viral and non-viral), and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). The authors then close with a brief discussion on vitamin D analogues and the potential for HCC treatment. The manuscript flows well and provides a nice narrative. I have some comments that would hopefully benefit the authors in their revision. 1) When discussing the literature in



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certain sections, it is helpful to note what types of studies were used to illustrate certain facts. For example, under the “Vitamin D Deficiency” section, the prevalence of vitamin D deficiency for certain countries were provided. It is noted in the subsequent paragraph that the prevalence for vitamin D deficiency in the United States was obtained from the cross-sectional analysis of the US NHANES. Yet, it is unclear, without going to the references themselves, what studies were done for the Asian countries. 2) While the Tables 1 and 2 provide a great brief overview of various aspects of the different studies, it would be helpful to know whether the study participants, especially in case-control or “randomized prospective”, are hospital-based or population-based. It would help orient the reader to see whether the participants are a reflection of what is seen in hospitals or medical centers, or if they reflect the general population of those countries. Also, for the prospective or nested case-control studies, is there information on the length of follow-up? This type of information could provide some idea of temporality. 3) Minor: While acronyms are provided in the beginning, I suggest the authors provide the full words (e.g. “CHB” for chronic hepatitis B) in the text itself. 4) Minor: Though the overall English is fine, the paper could benefit from some editing and/or review for consistency in usage and spacing.



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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 37330

Title: Vitamin D deficiency and viral hepatitis-associated liver diseases: a literature review

Reviewer's code: 02444978

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Date sent for review: 2017-11-29

Date reviewed: 2017-12-09

Review time: 10 Days

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| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | |

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a very good review focused on a topic of interest and widely debated in the literature: the role of vitamin D in chronic hepatic diseases, in particular the ones associated to viral hepatitis. I just have a note to make the exposure more clear and correct. Twice in the text (lines 237-240, and lines 333-334) is reported an association between vitamin D deficiency and NAFLD: in both cases the literature cited does not directly refer to NAFLD pathogenesis but rather to the association with other pathological conditions. Despite the absence of a clear causal link, vitamin D deficiency is often associated with NAFLD. To refer this phenomenon more clearly, I suggest to add some specific citations on pathogenesis and epidemiology of NAFLD (see for example a recent review: "Cimini et al. Relationship between adipose tissue dysfunction, vitamin D deficiency and the pathogenesis of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. World J



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Gastroenterol. 2017;23:3407-3417; or also “Ha Y, et al. The Association between Vitamin D Insufficiency and Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease: A Population-Based Study. Nutrients. 2017;9. pii: E806”). There are few words in the text that need to be corrected, for example: Line 54: metabolism Line 59: prevalence Line 415: substance