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Dear Dr. Ze-Mao Gong, Director, Editorial Office

World Journal of Hepatology

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript intitled, "CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY TO DETERMINE VIRAL HEPATITIS KNOWLEDGE IN DIFFERENT URBAN POPULATIONS IN BRAZIL." by Helena Medina Cruz, Jakeline Ribeiro Barbosa, Jeová Keny Baima Colares, Antonio Henrique Almeida de Moraes Neto, Maria de Fátima Leal Alencar, Jurema Corrêa da Mota, Filipe Aníbal Carvalho Costa, Claudia Alexandra Pontes Ivantes, Lia Laura Lews-Ximenes, Livia Melo Villar.

We agree with the observations that were made by the reviewers, which have significantly improved our manuscript. We have revised our manuscript according to the recommendations by the reviewers. The suggestions and modifications are presented in red color.

Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication in the World Journal of Hepatology.

Sincerely Yours,

Livia Melo Villar

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### **Reviewer 1:**

The study is very extensive and informative. The manuscript is well presented. The discussion may have to be summarised appropriately. Thought has to be given to suggestions how the data can be made use: policy making in education system or health education and how it can be brought about. When the data is projecting less knowledge in low resource centers what are the suggestions to improvise it and who should be taking action.

Discussion was summarized as suggested and we believed that The results obtained in the present study can be used as a data source for the projection of intervention methods in health and public health policies, such as explanatory educational leaflet, educational booklets, lectures in schools, health campaigns, health fairs and others, in order to increase access to information of viral hepatitis and possibly to reduce the number of cases of these infections, especially among individuals from low resources areas that showed a lower level of knowledge in present finding. This information was included in discussion section.

### **Reviewer 2**

The manuscript is very interesting with convenient title. methods and discussion but in my opinion is not suitable for the journal with basic and clinical topics like WJG and it is better to expand research and publish it in public health journals. The authors published very similar manuscript, this year in Open access Int. J Environ.Res Public Health 2018.15.189 ( ref. number 24)

This paper shows the knowledge about viral hepatitis in different settings, including ambulatories. This information should be very helpful to hepatologist and the audience of World Journal of Hepatology.

### **Reviewer 3**

I believe that it is a very good and helpful work and it should be published. Only a few changes are needed as shown at the attached file. Also in table 3 the correct answers are characterised as "weak" while in the text as "low".

The term "LOW" was used in table and along the manuscript

### **Reviewer 4**

In this study, the authors aimed to analyze the viral hepatitis knowledge in the general population from different resource areas and health conditions in Brazil. The idea to perform the study seems to be interesting, however, several limitations of the presented manuscript should be pointed out:

Firstly, English language should be corrected.

English language was revised.

Secondly, my concern is, if the authors do not duplicate the material presented in their another study (A Cross-Sectional Study of Viral Hepatitis Perception among Residents from Southeast and North Regions of Brazil by Helena Medina Cruz, Vanessa Salette de Paula and Livia Melo Villar Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2018, 15(2), 189; doi:10.3390/ijerph15020189). The authors should clearly comment on this issue.

In this paper, we evaluated the knowledge about viral hepatitis in different settings (geographical regions, type of population, and period of time) from the previous study. In addition, the instrument was not the same as used in previous study as cited in methods. Population was recruited in the year of 2015 and included individuals from clinics of South, Northeast and Southeast region of Brazil as general population from Southeast and Northeast region.

Other issues: 1. Abstract / Conclusions: The results demonstrated high level of knowledge among health clinics from the Southeast region - it is not the knowledge of the clinics, but the study participants from these clinics

The sentence was rewritten in abstract: "The results demonstrated high level of knowledge among study participants from health clinics from the Southeast region of Brazil and the importance of education programs in increasing the level of knowledge in low resource areas."

2. The Introduction Part is written in a too simple way for the Journal and contains several mistakes (there are more than 5 hepatotropic viruses, e.g., HGV; there is also a HEV vaccine licensed in China; the main method of avoiding HAV infection is hand washing). This part should be significantly improved.

Improvements in the introduction were made but without increasing their size

3. What was the method of selecting participants in each center? Consecutive?

A non-probability sampling method with consecutive sampling was used in which every subject meeting the criteria of inclusion is selected until the required sample size is achieved in this setting.

4. In my opinion, the numbers of participants in each group are not representative for the regions.

In this study, a non-probability method with consecutive sampling was employed since it is easy and cost-effective. It was not possible to calculate the number of individuals in this study due to absence of previous data in this group and probably the number of individuals is not representative of general population, but the data could give a picture for future randomized studies in this population.

5. "Desirable perception was more common among females (58.4%), subjects aged over 40 years (60.0%), " this statement is not true (p values are over 0.05).

This statement was corrected.