

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 63016

Title: Factors influencing the failure of interferon-free therapy for chronic hepatitis C:
Data from the Polish EpiTer-2 cohort study

Reviewer's code: 00186081

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: DSc, FEBG, MD

Professional title: Assistant Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: Poland

Manuscript submission date: 2021-01-26

Reviewer chosen by: Jin-Lei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-01-27 03:24

Reviewer performed review: 2021-01-27 14:42

Review time: 11 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors put forward a retrospective cohort study regarding factors influencing the failure of interferon-free therapy for chronic hepatitis C: Data from the EpiTer-2 cohort study. The authors may correct on the text citation 18 to: Ioannou G instead of Ioannis. The authors may also comment on the following articles in the discussion: Starace M, Minichini C, De Pascalis S, Macera M, Occhiello L, Messina V, Sangiovanni V, Adinolfi LE, Claar E, Precone D, Stornaiuolo G, Stanzione M, Ascione T, Caroprese M, Zampino R, Parrilli G, Gentile I, Brancaccio G, Iovinella V, Martini S, Masarone M, Fontanella L, Masiello A, Sagnelli E, Punzi R, Salomone Megna A, Santoro R, Gaeta GB, Coppola N. Virological patterns of HCV patients with failure to interferon-free regimens. *J Med Virol.* 2018 May;90(5):942-950. doi: 10.1002/jmv.25022. Epub 2018 Feb 1. PMID: 29315640. Rial-Crestelo D, Sepúlveda MA, González-Gasca FJ, Geijo-Martínez P, Martínez-Alfaro E, Barberá JR, Yzusqui M, Casallo S, García M, Muñoz Hornero C, Espinosa-Gimeno A, Torralba M; Grupo de Estudio de Castilla la Manche de enfermedades Infecciosas (GECMEI). Impact of interferon-free therapies in HIV/HCV co-infected patients on real clinical practice: results from a multicenter region-wide cohort study (2014-2018). *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2021 Feb 1;32(2):279-287. doi: 10.1097/MEG.0000000000002012. PMID: 33252415.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 63016

Title: Factors influencing the failure of interferon-free therapy for chronic hepatitis C:
Data from the Polish EpiTer-2 cohort study

Reviewer's code: 02728252

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Egypt

Author's Country/Territory: Poland

Manuscript submission date: 2021-01-26

Reviewer chosen by: Jin-Lei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-01-29 03:40

Reviewer performed review: 2021-01-30 07:30

Review time: 1 Day and 3 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It is an interesting retrospective cohort study evaluating the factors influencing the failure of interferon-free therapy for chronic hepatitis C in a real-world settings. The study data were extracted from 22 centers in Poland using EpiTer-2 database. The data were statistically analyzed with the standard and machine learning methods. They concluded that patients with advanced liver disease, individualized therapy should be considered to maximize the chance of achieving SVR. Minor changes are required: 1. As the study was performed in Poland, the authors should report this issue in the title for specificity. 2. In the introduction section, the authors should reflect the rational and hypothesis with great details. 3. In the methodology section the STROBE statement should be considered. 4. A combined flow chart containing laboratory analyses and therapeutic regimens that were performed for those patients is recommended. 5. In the standard statistical method and for continuous data why the authors didn't use the parametric tests, please give the reason in the text. 6. Minor English polishing is required.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 63016

Title: Factors influencing the failure of interferon-free therapy for chronic hepatitis C:
Data from the Polish EpiTer-2 cohort study

Reviewer's code: 03198584

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Poland

Manuscript submission date: 2021-01-26

Reviewer chosen by: Jin-Lei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-01-28 09:56

Reviewer performed review: 2021-01-30 08:54

Review time: 1 Day and 22 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This study summarized the factors of failure of direct-acting antiviral drugs therapy in patients with chronic hepatitis C through a multi center, large sample retrospective cohort study, and proposed that liver cirrhosis and deterioration of liver function are the most important factors of treatment failure. The data is true and reliable, and the predictive model was established by machine learning techniques. The research method is novel and has great reference value. But there are some comments as follows: 1.The research background is too simple to highlight the importance and scientific significance of the research purpose. 2.In the introduction, the author mentioned that the use of direct-acting antiviral drugs in patients with chronic hepatitis C, including liver cirrhosis and renal failure, can achieve good curative effect, but they are also important factors of treatment failure. Are the two contradictory? 3.The author combines the "traditional" analysis with the multivariate analysis, but does not make a detailed comparison between the two analysis results. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the multivariate analysis compared with the "traditional" analysis ? Which analysis method is more advantageous for this study? And there is no explanation for the inconsistency between the two analysis results. 4.In the discuss and conclusion, the author proposed to carry out individualization of therapy for patients with advanced liver disease. Since liver cirrhosis and liver failure are the most important factors leading to treatment failure, it is well known that the treatment of liver cirrhosis and liver failure is more difficult, and the curative effect is not satisfactory. so for patients with chronic hepatitis C, how to prevent the progression of liver disease, formation of cirrhosis, liver function deterioration is more clinical value and significance?

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 63016

Title: Factors influencing the failure of interferon-free therapy for chronic hepatitis C:
Data from the Polish EpiTer-2 cohort study

Reviewer's code: 03477847

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Turkey

Author's Country/Territory: Poland

Manuscript submission date: 2021-01-26

Reviewer chosen by: Jin-Lei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-01-28 23:41

Reviewer performed review: 2021-02-02 00:22

Review time: 4 Days

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This retrospective cohort study, which evaluates the factors affecting the failure of interferon-free treatment for chronic hepatitis C, seems remarkable with its sample size. You can find my comments below: 1. Poland and direct acting antivirals can be added to the article title to highlight the topic 2. The authors identified many differences between the classical analyzes and the machine learning techniques method and stated them in the discussion section. But why there are differences between the results obtained from the two statistical methods is not discussed. Therefore, in the discussion part of the article; After writing the differences between these results of two statistical methods, I think it is necessary to add the authors' comments on these differences.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 63016

Title: Factors influencing the failure of interferon-free therapy for chronic hepatitis C:
Data from the Polish EpiTer-2 cohort study

Reviewer's code: 00053644

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: Poland

Manuscript submission date: 2021-01-26

Reviewer chosen by: Jin-Lei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-01-27 08:33

Reviewer performed review: 2021-02-09 16:18

Review time: 13 Days and 7 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript took into consideration a considerable number of patients. As the authors themselves write, there are several limitations in their study. In any case, I believe that the manuscript presents a considerable amount of data and that it reaches reasonable conclusions. I only recommend checking the English language.