



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 63529

**Title:** New Hope for Hepatitis C Virus: Summary of Global Epidemiologic Changes and Novel Innovations Over 20 Years

**Reviewer's code:** 05703005

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** United Kingdom

**Author's Country/Territory:** United States

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-28

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-01-29 09:15

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-01-29 09:55

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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 Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	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 review article provides a good summary of the progress made in HCV to the DAA era and then discusses the potential for global elimination and barriers in achieving this - it needs further development to address the following areas :- Major Structurally - elements of the global epidemiological trends would be better placed in the HCV virology section (transmission, viral course etc) Further discussion regarding determination of SVR at 12/52 as indicating viral cure would be of value as this has changed over time Some discussion regarding HCC risk and DAA therapy should be included given the controversy of this topic at the time A discussion regarding DDIs and determining optimal pan genotypic selection would be of interest When considering global elimination of HCV - there needs to be discussion regarding implementation of effective screening programs targeting at risk populations - there are a number of models that could be proposed that are utilised around the world Whilst DAAs are effective at treating patients with HCV - for an elimination strategy, one could argue that the development of a vaccine may be of greater benefit in achieving this strategy. This should be discussed in the context of recent developments in HCV vaccine field. Minor Few typos throughout velpatasvir Would revise first sentence of global epidemiological trends section Second paragraph page 2 - 'declaring itself' is incorrect terminology Figure 1 may be better presented as a map Table 1 - should include glecaprevir, pibrentasvir and voxilaprevir



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**Title:** New Hope for Hepatitis C Virus: Summary of Global Epidemiologic Changes and Novel Innovations Over 20 Years

**Reviewer's code:** 02942287

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Iran

**Author's Country/Territory:** United States

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-28

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-01-30 08:14

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<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	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**

The present study is a well-written review on HCV epidemiological changes, new treatments, and inequalities in access to care. The subject has a high priority for publishing, given the inadequate HCV care programs worldwide and the urgent need for policy change, particularly in low and middle-income regions. Overall, I found the manuscript suitable for publication; however, major revisions are required. 1.

Authors need to expand on the feasible ways for scaling up HCV elimination efforts in resource-limited settings. There are many examples of integrated HCV care models such as prison-based programs, community integrated models, or using OAT infrastructure, which could pave the way towards elimination in low and middle-income countries. 2. The section “Global epidemiological trends” is mainly presenting epidemiological data from the United States, and its title does not reflect the content. Authors should discuss “global” HCV trends and expand on its epidemiology in different regions. 3. There are many hard-to-reach and wordy sentences in the manuscript that need rephrasing. The correct use of punctuations should definitely be considered. 4. Several sentences and paragraphs that have been presented in the body of the manuscript belong to the introduction. 5. In some parts, lack of coherency between paragraphs is sensible. Also, overly detailed discussion together with multiple numbers presented in some paragraphs may make the reader distracted from the main point. Please see the attached file containing the detailed comments and suggestions.



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 63529

**Title:** New Hope for Hepatitis C Virus: Summary of Global Epidemiologic Changes and Novel Innovations Over 20 Years

**Reviewer's code:** 03210006

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Doctor, Research Dean

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** United States

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**Reviewer chosen by:** Jin-Lei Wang

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**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-02-10 13:26

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<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing [ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes [ ] No
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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

First, this manuscript mainly describes the epidemiology and new hope of hepatitis C in the world in recent 20 years. And put forward the unique insight that fair DAAs treatment opportunities can reduce the mortality of hepatitis C. Second, the quality and importance of this manuscript is very good. Before and after the use of DAAs, the mortality rate of hepatitis C has changed significantly. However, pharmaceutical costs limit equitable access to healthcare. Based on this, the author proposed the essential agenda items include prioritization of access to DAAs therapies in addition to transparent negotiations with the pharmaceutical industry to consider the compassionate release of medications to promote equitable division of care. Third, this manuscript finally pointed out the future direction should be devoted to the prioritization of HCV infection in order to increase its importance on the international agenda, especially in the World Health Organization. Additionally, pharmaceutical companies need to consider providing compassionate release of medications to promote equitable healthcare worldwide, especially given the highest disease burden within low- and middle-income countries.



## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

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**Title:** New Hope for Hepatitis C Virus: Summary of Global Epidemiologic Changes and Novel Innovations Over 20 Years

**Reviewer's code:** 05703005

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** United Kingdom

**Author's Country/Territory:** United States

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-28

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ru Fan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-03-22 08:37

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**Review time:** 13 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<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
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	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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The authors have addressed my comments and the manuscript is generally better. There are still a few typos throughout the manuscript eg genotypic on page 11 - these need to be addressed.



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**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

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**Title:** New Hope for Hepatitis C Virus: Summary of Global Epidemiologic Changes and Novel Innovations Over 20 Years

**Reviewer's code:** 02942287

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**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Iran

**Author's Country/Territory:** United States

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<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing [ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
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The revised manuscript is much improved and is suitable for publication.