

Editorial Office

*World Journal of Clinical Cases*

**Re:** Revision of Manuscript (ID: No. 64024)

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for your decision letter and the positive review of our manuscript entitled “Effects of alcohol consumption on viral hepatitis B and C”. The insightful comments and suggestions helped us to improve the manuscript.

We have read your letter and considered the comments/suggestions with care. Accordingly, we have revised the manuscript. All questions have been answered with highlighted changes in the revised manuscript. Point-to-point responses to the comment were also provided below this letter.

We believe that the manuscript now is further improved. We hope that you will find that the revision is acceptable for the publication in *World Journal of Clinical Cases*.

As always, we appreciate your interest in our work, and look forward to hearing from you.

We have changed the corresponding email address to [yanhang@mail.jlu.edu.cn](mailto:yanhang@mail.jlu.edu.cn)

Yours sincerely,

Yanhang Gao

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**Responses were as follows:**

Reviewer #1:

**Specific Comments to Authors:** This is a general review regarding effects of alcohol consumption on chronic viral hepatitis B and C. A synergistic effect of alcohol intake with viral hepatitis on the liver disease progression was documented. Even if results and conclusions are as expected and there is no striking new evidence, data from studies are presented in a consistent manner. However, in clinical practice, all efforts to discourage alcohol consumption are worth the effort, and this manuscript strengthens this view point. Extra attention to punctuation is required.

**Response:** Thank you very much!

Reviewer #2:

**Specific Comments to Authors:** In this review manuscript, the authors Xu H et al reviewed the published information about the alcohol consumption on HBV, HCV viral hepatitis and liver disease. They suggested that alcohol promoted viral replication, weakened immune response, and increased oxidative stress. They indicated that alcohol abuse is correlated with an increased risk of developing end-stage liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma in patients with chronic HBV and HCV. This is an interesting review subject. The review processes of this manuscript are well conducted. The information and findings described in this manuscript are helpful and important. However, the authors may address the following issues to strengthen the paper. 1. In page 3 Introduction, the authors described that “Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) are the two most common types of viral infections in the liver, with approximately 257 million and 71 individuals living with HBV and HCV worldwide, respectively, and as many as 78,000 HBV- and 400,000 HCV-related deaths annually”. Could authors provide the information about how many of them are HCV/HBV coinfecting persons? Please check the data accuracy of the HBV, HCV-related deaths annually. Every year,

780,000 HBV-related deaths are documented around the globe (Virol J. 2005;2:82). 2. The abstract doesn't connect very well with the review description in the main text. The authors may modify the abstract to better reflect the main idea about alcohol consumption on HBV, HCV pathogenesis, alcohol abuse impairs the response to antiviral therapy and increase liver disease progression.

**Response 1:** Thank you for your advice, we have checked the data of HBV,HCV related deaths and added the HCV/HBV coinfectd data in the part of instruction as below:

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) are the two most common types of viral infections in the liver, with approximately 257 million and 71 individuals living with HBV and HCV worldwide, respectively, and as many as 780,000 HBV- and 400,000 HCV-related deaths annually (1-3). Epidemiologic studies suggest that approximately 10% to 15% of patients with hepatitis C infection are coinfectd with HBV(4).

**Response 2:** Thank you for your suggestion, we have added " Furthermore, IFN-based therapy is less effective in alcohol drinkers than in control patients, even after abstinence from alcohol for a period of time." which referred that alcohol abuse impairs the response to antiviral therapy.

Reviewer #3:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade D (Fair)

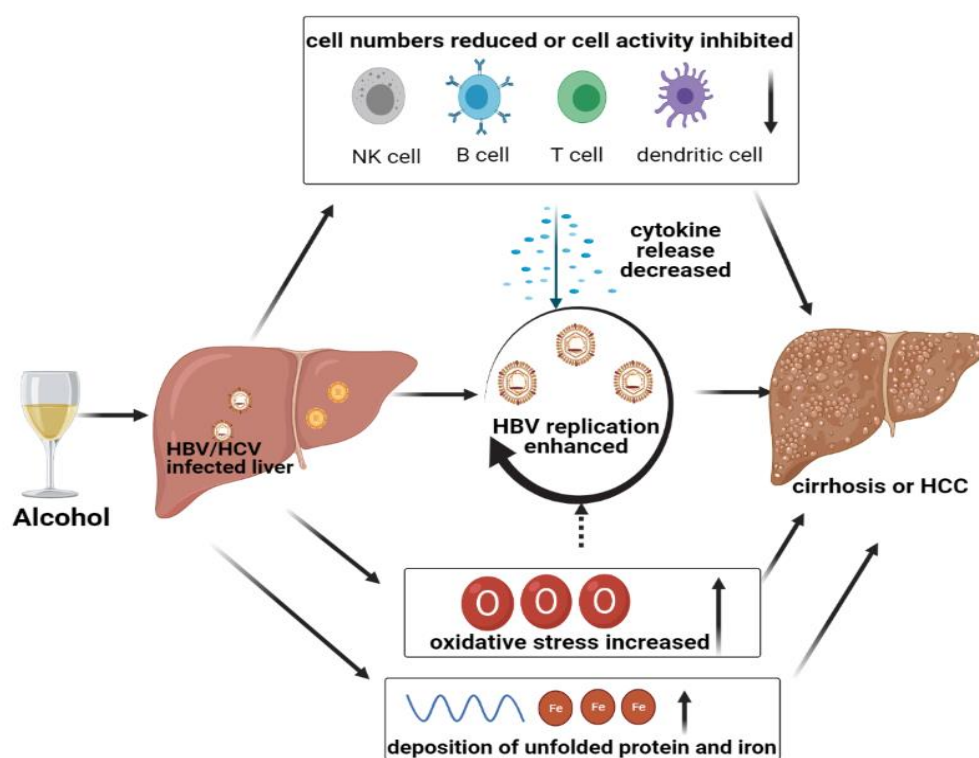
**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Major revision

**Specific Comments to Authors:** Thank you for the invitation to review the paper by Xu et al. about the effects of alcohol consumption on viral hepatitis B and C. Since both viral hepatitis and alcohol consumption are common worldwide, understanding their synergistic effect is important for further management. This is an exciting and important subject that deserves attention in the literature. The authors made a good attempt; however, I would recommend substantial modifications before publication.

The manuscript should intrigue and educate the reader; however, this paper tends to lose the leading thread and lose the reader on several occasions. Therefore, I would recommend restructuring it and make “intriguing.” The author should decide on the approach. The studies in this review are “cherry-picked,” and the authors should define the selection criteria or perform a systematic review. This review explains different mechanisms in which alcohol leads to worse outcomes in viral hepatitis patients. Please provide a visual explanation in the form of a scheme or a figure to understand the text better. Besides, the use of tables is also strongly suggested. There are several grammatical errors in the manuscript.

**Response:** Thank you for your advice, we have added a figure in the part of instruction as below:



**Figure.1 Effects of Alcohol Use on Chronic Hepatitis B or C**

**Response to science editor and Company editor-in-chief:**

Thank you very much! Point-to-point modification have made in our revised manuscript.