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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

Manuscript NO: 72020

Title: Benign Course of Residual Inflammation at End of Treatment of Liver Transplant Recipients after Sofosbuvir based Therapy: A Case Series.

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 00054672
Position: Editorial Board
Academic degree: FEBG, MD, PhD
Professional title: Associate Professor
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Croatia
Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2021-10-23
Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique
Reviewer accepted review: 2021-10-23 15:23
Reviewer performed review: 2021-11-01 17:54
Review time: 9 Days and 2 Hours

Scientific quality	[Y] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing [ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[Y] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[Y] Yes [ ] No

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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

There is limited data on the impact of successful HCV treatment with DAAs on histologic changes in transplant recipients. This is an excellent case series of 13 patients after LT treated with DAA and long-term clinical and histological follow up, showing that mild persistent inflammation dose not affect the clinical course. This is a valuable addition in the filed of transplant medicine.

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Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05077783
Position: Editorial Board
Academic degree: MD, MSc

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Surgeon

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Brazil

Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2021-10-23

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-11-08 22:17

Reviewer performed review: 2021-11-09 14:05

Review time: 15 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [Y] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[Y] Yes [ ] No

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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors present a retrospective study on the results of liver biopsies after hepatitis C treatment with direct acting antivirals. The subject of histological response to DAA treatment is of scientific interest, particularly with regards to liver transplant recipients. While the size of the sample is small, the study is conducted and presented in a clear and comprehensive way. One aspect that could be further explored by the authors is the presence of other possible causes for the inflammatory response that was found in the post treatment biopsies. Other case series on the subject have found significant steatosis and steatohepatitis, which could be a cause for persistent inflammation (in the series described by the authors, only one patient was reported as having steatosis of less than 5%). Histological and biochemical markers of biliary complications (such as alkaline phosphatase and GGT) could also be addressed as possible hints for the underlying cause of persistent inflammation after successful antiviral treatment. Writing in the english language must also be reviewed for minor corrections.