

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



December 17, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the revised manuscript in Word format (file name: 7685-editedR1.doc).

Title: The influence of unrecorded alcohol consumption on liver cirrhosis mortality

Author: Dirk W Lachenmeier, Yulia B Monakhova, Jürgen Rehm

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 7685

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of your reviewers. The revisions are detailed on the next pages.

Thank you again for considering our manuscript for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

Dirk W. Lachenmeier
Chemisches und Veterinäruntersuchungsamt (CVUA) Karlsruhe
Weissenburger Strasse 3
D-76187 Karlsruhe
Germany
Lachenmeier@web.de

Detailed revisions (comments marked in red):

Reviewed by 00069630

This report shows that the unrecorded alcohol consumption have influence on liver cirrhosis mortality. Recent research has shown that concerns about the toxicity of unrecorded alcohol were mostly exaggerated. Rather than by reference to alcohol quality, liver cirrhosis rates could be better explained by the higher alcoholic strength of the unrecorded alcohol consumed, problematic drinking patterns, lower socioeconomic status and poor health status and the interaction effect between these factors. Your manuscript requires only a minimal modifications. Please make sure that the English is good in some areas of the manuscript.

Thank you! The manuscript was revised by a native speaker to check English and Grammar of the text.

Reviewed by 00181511

This manuscript is well written, clear and concise.

I have just two minor comments:

-in the last paragraph of Introduction where is "liver cirrhosis rates" it should be "liver cirrhosis death rates".

"Death" was added on all instances where it was missing before "rates". Instead of "death" we not use "mortality" as better word.

-in the statistical part, it is not clear what "R" is since determination coefficient should be represented as R^2 , regression coefficient as b and correlation coefficient as r ; authors should clarify this point.

R is a correlation coefficient. We have replaced R with r throughout the manuscript for clarity.

Reviewed by 00008194

Well written and very interesting data.

A few questions: Would you give more details of the methods used by WHO/GISAID to gather data?

A short methodology description was added.

Is the age of over 15 years used to define adult population used in all countries included in the study?

Yes.

Would you comment on concomitant risk of drug use and viral hepatitis or HIV in the population consuming unrecorded alcohol and possible contribution of that into worsening liver disease?

We do not have data on the correlation between the prevalence of drug use, viral hepatitis or HIV use and unrecorded consumption. However, it may be speculated that these could be confounding factors as the prevalence could be higher in the lower socioeconomic

strata that consume unrecorded alcohol. We have added these suggestions in the discussion.

How about socioeconomic confounders and lack of access to medical care leading to progression of liver disease and increased mortality?

Similar to the previous comment, it is probably true that there is a correlation between low socioeconomic status and unrecorded alcohol consumption, which could explain its association with increased disease and mortality. We have added this in the discussion.