

To: Editor-in-Chief of World Journal of Hepatology,

We have used the publicly available national inpatient sample dataset provided by The Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). The databases are limited data sets and patient identity is not known. Therefore, no informed consent is required for this study.

**Maryam Haider, MD**

Department of Internal Medicine

Detroit Medical Center/Wayne State University Sinai Grace Hospital.

Street Name & Number

6071 Outer Dr W, Detroit, MI 48235

Tel: +15856267058.

E-mail: [maryambilalhaider@yahoo.com](mailto:maryambilalhaider@yahoo.com)