



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Virology*

Manuscript NO: 89469

Title: Global Trends in Hepatitis C-Related Hepatocellular Carcinoma Mortality: A Public Database Analysis (1999-2019)

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer’s code: 05230210

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer’s Country/Territory: Egypt

Author’s Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2023-11-02

Reviewer chosen by: Yu-Lu Chen

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-12-03 11:18

Reviewer performed review: 2023-12-15 15:32

Review time: 12 Days and 4 Hours

Scientific quality	<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 Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation



Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
Language quality	<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
Conclusion	<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
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I would like to thank the the authors for their important work. Notes on the manuscript:
 Title: is very long and repetitive please modify, I also suggest adding that it is a public accessed database. In the abstract: the authors wrote “We also identified noticeable trends relating to gender, providing insights into demographic groups that are disproportionately affected.” >> please clarify what do you mean by “demographic groups that are disproportionately affected” is it that gender is unequally presented?
 Introduction: it is not clear what the authors mean by “seismic shift” there is no geological background to the topic. Results: the authors wrote first overall males and females then each region without subtitles or any indications where the females and males belong to, please clarify in subtitles. Discussion: 1- there is a lot of restating the results previously mentioned, please remove duplication and concentrate on finding the reasons behind the mortality trends and the effects it have on the populations. 2- The authors state “The primary risk factor for HCC in Sub-Saharan Africa is chronic infection with the hepatitis B virus (HBV), particularly prevalent in West Africa. This factor contributes significantly to elevated mortality rates; however, it is essential to note that



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HCV is not associated with this heightened incidence.” This is out of scope as a reason for HCV related mortality please omit. 3- The authors stated “HCV cure is associated with a decreased risk of HCC in Sub-Saharan Africa; however, the risk persists after sustained virological response in patients with cirrhosis, necessitating ongoing surveillance”>> could you add the metaanalysis done on the effect of DAAs on HCC, as there was much debate on this topic, and is very relevant to mention this debate. 4- The authors keep repeating the HCV vaccination as the cure to the disease, and fail to compare the actual presentation (in percentages of cure rates) of HCV in the interferon era and the DAAs era, which is a great medical breakthrough. Please don't mention vaccination except in the introduction or once in the discussion as it is not relevant.