



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Meta-Analysis*

Manuscript NO: 70518

Title: Epidemiology of Hepatitis C Virus among Blood Donors and the General Population in the Middle East and North Africa: Meta-analyses and Meta-regressions

Reviewer's code: 04761604

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: DNB, MBBS

Professional title: Doctor, Teacher

Reviewer's Country/Territory: India

Author's Country/Territory: Qatar

Manuscript submission date: 2021-08-05

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-08-05 14:32

Reviewer performed review: 2021-08-05 16:54

Review time: 2 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I read the manuscript following are my opinion. The PRISMA checklist suggests page 1-8 has several details of the search, eligibility criteria, etc. However, in reality, it is almost impossible that these sections span over such a vast area of the manuscript. Since a list of references is inserted at the end of this checklist, another possibility I took into consideration is that authors might have meant by '(1-8)' as the references. It's weird to present citations in this last column of the PRISMA checklist. I am not clear how the literature search was performed. Its not clear the databases searched and their search strategy. The title doesn't clearly state if this is a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both. The study lacks clear eligibility criteria. Thank you.



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Name of journal: *World Journal of Meta-Analysis*

Manuscript NO: 70518

Title: Epidemiology of Hepatitis C Virus among Blood Donors and the General Population in the Middle East and North Africa: Meta-analyses and Meta-regressions

Reviewer's code: 05040484

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Doctor, Professor, Research Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Russia

Author's Country/Territory: Qatar

Manuscript submission date: 2021-08-05

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-08-05 17:01

Reviewer performed review: 2021-08-05 18:09

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
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



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting study, but you should format your manuscript and references as recommended by the publisher. The title should be shortened.



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Name of journal: *World Journal of Meta-Analysis*

Manuscript NO: 70518

Title: Epidemiology of Hepatitis C Virus among Blood Donors and the General Population in the Middle East and North Africa: Meta-analyses and Meta-regressions

Reviewer's code: 06140863

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Academic Research, Assistant Technician, Research Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Spain

Author's Country/Territory: Qatar

Manuscript submission date: 2021-08-05

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-08-06 19:16

Reviewer performed review: 2021-08-17 13:12

Review time: 10 Days and 17 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
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input 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



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors have done fascinating work on HCV prevalence in the Middle East and North Africa population, comparing it with the European population. The data suggest an annual reduction in the disease incidence in both regions, which are very encouraging figures. However, there are substantial differences between the prevalence of blood donors and the general population in Europe. This phenomenon is logical in a population context with numerous clinical analyses, where most HCV cases are diagnosed. In this way, the low number of HVC in European blood donors could indicate a small number of undiagnosed people since the diagnosed subjects would not go to donate blood. Therefore, the figures observed in MENA could be an alarming indicator of the percentage of the population undiagnosed. Authors should consider reevaluating these facts in their work. Secondly, the methodology indicates: "The database included 685 HCV Ab prevalence measures on 46,634,214 blood donors and 528 measures on 2,358,944 individuals of the general population, such as pregnant women, healthy adults, and children, among others." The sum of the data provided in material and methods shows 1,213 HCV Ab prevalence measures on 48,993,158 individuals. Why don't the numbers match the job title? How are the sample size and number of samples different from previous work, entitled "Who to Test for Hepatitis C Virus in the Middle East and North Africa?: Pooled Analyzes of 2,500 Prevalence Measures, Including 49 Million Tests"? Finally, the sample size of blood donors is much larger than that of the general population, which could be another limitation of the study. Consider including it in study limitations.



RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Manuscript NO: 70518

Title: Epidemiology of Hepatitis C Virus among Blood Donors and the General Population in the Middle East and North Africa: Meta-analyses and Meta-regressions

Reviewer's code: 05040484

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Doctor, Professor, Research Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Russia

Author's Country/Territory: Qatar

Manuscript submission date: 2021-08-05

Reviewer chosen by: Man Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-09-28 06:18

Reviewer performed review: 2021-09-28 06:21

Review time: 1 Hour

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
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
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



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No comments.