



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Virology

**Manuscript NO:** 63465

**Title:** Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 receptors, chronic liver diseases, common medications, and clinical outcomes in COVID-19 patients

**Reviewer's code:** 05400480

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Chief Physician, Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** Thailand

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-28

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jin-Lei Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-01-29 16:05

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-02-14 07:12

**Review time:** 15 Days and 15 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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 Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<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
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	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**

Thank you for inviting me to review the article titled The Implication of Pre-Existing Abnormal Liver Conditions and Common Medications on the Expression of ACE2 in the Hepatobiliary Tissues of COVID-19 Patients. In the manuscript, the author have tried to clarify the relationship between pre-existing liver diseases and common medications with the expression of ACE2 in the hepatobiliary tissues of COVID-19 patients (in author's own words). The author have reviewed related research in each part and come to a conclusion implicating that pre-existing liver diseases, and some common medications upregulated the ACE2 expression in hepatobiliary tissues and caused more severe clinical outcome in COVID-19 patients (in author's own words). However, it is difficult for us to understand the manuscript because of the poor English and elaboration, which might cause misunderstanding and misconception. The following are the questions in this manuscript. First and foremost, words cause misunderstanding. Title is the eye of a paper, which helps us to grasp the main idea. However, when I read the title for the first time, I tend to believe that pre-existing abnormal liver conditions and common medications may both have something to do with the expression of ACE2 in the hepatobiliary tissues of COVID-19 patients, which I don't get after reading the full manuscript with great caution. The abstract and the introduction also deliver unclear message, causing confusion. Secondly, the text is NOT well-organized. The manuscript mainly consists of four parts, ACE2, COVID-19 And Hepatobiliary Injury, Pre-existing Liver Diseases And Clinical Outcome and Common Medications Treatment And Clinical Outcome. The first two parts introduce the background of hepatobiliary injury in COVID-19 patients and ACE2, which make up nearly 70% of the main context (the second part makes up nearly 50%), while the last two parts ought to be the highlight. To be honest, the manuscript contains little about the role of ACE2 in COVID-19 patients. The manuscript is need to be revised the title or the



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content discussed in paper. The author need to select the effect associated with ACE2 or the potential risks for liver injury to discussed in the whole paper.