

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 37928

Title: Differing profiles of people diagnosed with acute and chronic Hepatitis B virus infection in British Columbia, Canada

Reviewer's code: 02529007

Reviewer's country: Iran

Science editor: Xue-Jiao Wang

Date sent for review: 2018-01-13

Date reviewed: 2018-01-17

Review time: 4 Days

| CLASSIFICATION | LANGUAGE EVALUATION | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT | CONCLUSION |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | Google Search: | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor | | [Y] No | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision |
| | | BPG Search: | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | |

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Manuscript ID: 37928 entitled, "Differing profiles of people diagnosed with acute and chronic Hepatitis B virus infection in British Columbia (BC), Canada " is a retrospective cohort study that evaluates the data of 1,058,056 eligible participants tested for HCV, HIV and HBV (including: prescription drug, medical visit, hospitalization and mortality) from the BC Hepatitis Testers Cohort (BC-HTC), since 1990 with the aim of describing the characteristics of the people diagnosed with acute and chronic HBV infection in BC to support prevention, screening and treatment programs. Results indicated that 46,498 of the 1,058,056 individuals were diagnosed with HBV of which 95.7% were in chronic phase infection and mostly East Asian immigrants (60%), mostly in socioeconomic deprivation. However, substance use, major mental illness and HIV or HCV co-infection were more common among individuals with acute HBV who were predominantly White



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(78%). Authors concluded that optimal care for acute HBV requires integration of HBV prevention, screening, and treatment programs with programs for mental health, addiction and other blood-borne infections while for optimal care for chronic HBV might necessitate programs focusing on at-risk ethnic groups, specially East Asian immigrants in socioeconomic deprivation. Comments: Overall the manuscript is well-written and clear. Methods are well designed and results are conclusive. However, the manuscript might benefit by adding some comparative discussions with their findings using the following reports from Canada: - Osiowy C et al, Characterization of Acute and Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Genotypes in Canada. PLoS One. 2015 Sep 25;10(9):e0136074. - Sherman M et al, The management of chronic viral hepatitis: a Canadian consensus conference 2004. Can J Gastroenterol. 2004 Dec;18(12):715-28. Review - Villeneuve JP. The natural history of chronic hepatitis B virus infection. J Clin Virol. 2005 Dec;34 Suppl 1:S139-42. Review. Although authors have comparative discussions for their results with other developed countries like US but the manuscript might also benefit by adding some comparative discussions with their findings using the following reports to find out about similarities and differences for a developed country like Canada and developing countries condition: - Olayinka AT et al, Seroprevalence of Hepatitis B Infection in Nigeria: A National Survey. Am J Trop Med Hyg. 2016 Oct 5;95(4):902-907. Epub 2016 Aug 15. - Mahtab MA et al, Epidemiology of hepatitis B virus in Bangladeshi general population. Hepatobiliary Pancreat Dis Int. 2008 Dec;7(6):595-600.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 37928

Title: Differing profiles of people diagnosed with acute and chronic Hepatitis B virus infection in British Columbia, Canada

Reviewer's code: 03656572

Reviewer's country: China

Science editor: Xue-Jiao Wang

Date sent for review: 2018-01-26

Date reviewed: 2018-01-29

Review time: 3 Days

| CLASSIFICATION | LANGUAGE EVALUATION | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT | CONCLUSION |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | Google Search: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision |
| | | BPG Search: | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | |

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a retrospective cohort study, which described characteristics of people diagnosed with acute and chronic HBV infection in British Columbia (BC), Canada. The results showed that substance use, major mental illness and HIV or HCV co-infection were more common among individuals with acute HBV compared to those diagnosed with chronic HBV. Acute HBV were mainly diagnosed in the White population while chronic HBV were diagnosed in people with East Asian ethnicity. Risk of acute HBV was highest among younger population who injected drugs while risk of chronic HBV infection was highest among East Asian people with lower socioeconomic status. It was suggested that optimal care for acute HBV requires integration of HBV prevention, screening, and treatment programs with programs for mental health, addiction and other blood-borne infections. Chronic HBV was more common among immigrants from HBV-endemic

countries with prevalence of traditional risk factors, necessitating programs focusing on at-risk ethnic groups, including foreign-born East and South Asians, for early diagnosis and treatment initiation. This study has some scientific and clinic significances, which is helpful for clinicians to understand the differing profiles of people diagnosed with acute and chronic Hepatitis B virus infection in British Columbia, Canada for supporting prevention, screening and treatment programs.