

Answer to the Reviewers comment

The manuscript entitled "Towards HCV elimination: Egyptian experience, achievements and limitations" has been evaluated as follows; It is well-written and presented. Although it needs some language polishing. Clearly the authors discuss the eradication of HCV from Egyptian population. Although it is a very huge problem, Ministry of Health and drug companies are providing resources for the eradication of the HCV virus. It is a good example to see Egyptian experience in the eradication of HCV.

Thank you

Egypt is known as the country with the highest HCV infection rate in the world. In recent years DAA has appeared in the field of HCV treatment and treatment of HCV has changed dramatically, many people including compensated liver cirrhosis are able to be treated, and it seems that DAA is a great trump card in the treatment of HCV, but it holds true for only cases in developed countries. DAA is very expensive, treatment of HCV is a financial burden. This review also considers HCV treatment in developing countries from health policy and financial aspects and Egypt can be a role model on health policy of many developing countries in Asia. Major 1. We often experience the development of HCC after chronic hepatitis C treatment, but how do you think about post-treatment follow up program? Do you regularly check abdominal US or check tumor markers? What is the most cost-effective method?

Dear Prof., We also noticed the development of HCC after chronic hepatitis C treatment with DAAs. Surprisingly such patients showed a more infiltrative pattern of their lesions. We published a paper in EASL- HCC summit; 2017 entitled: Aggressive behavior of HCV-related hepatocellular carcinoma: Comparative analysis between patients treated or not for HCV using direct acting antivirals

However, the possible role of DAAs in HCC development needs further studies to confirm this association and to identify possible factors that may

be associated with this event. Currently, we endorse a surveillance program for patients who completed DAA therapies in Egypt. This surveillance program is based on recall of all patients regardless of their fibrosis stage. Such patients will be subjected for abdominal ultrasound and serum alpha fetoprotein every 6 months.

The review article written by Omran et al. describes historical and comprehensive battles against HCV infection in Egypt. The review could give important insight to other countries for future strategy for eradication of HCV infection.

Thank you