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## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 39311

**Title:** Direct-acting antivirals and hepatocellular carcinoma in chronic hepatitis C: a few lights and many shadows.

**Reviewer's code:** 01555255

**Reviewer's country:** Italy

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2018-04-21

**Date reviewed:** 2018-04-23

**Review time:** 1 Day

| SCIENTIFIC QUALITY                          | LANGUAGE QUALITY                                      | CONCLUSION                              | PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS              |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept         | Peer-Review:                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language      | (High priority)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good      | polishing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept         | <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of     | (General priority)                      | Peer-reviewer's expertise on the      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not    | language polishing                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision | topic of the manuscript:              |
| publish                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection           | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced     |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection      | <input type="checkbox"/> General      |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> No expertise |
|   |   |   | Conflicts-of-Interest:                |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes          |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> No           |

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

1- It could be useful to update the literature search until April 2018 instead of February 2018 and so to cite the following papers recently published and: - Does interferon-free direct-acting antiviral therapy for hepatitis C after curative treatment for hepatocellular

carcinoma lead to unexpected recurrences of HCC? A multicenter study by the Japanese Red Cross Hospital Liver Study Group. Mashiba T, Joko K, Kurosaki M, Ochi H, Osaki Y, Kojima Y, Nakata R, Goto T, Takehiro A, Kimura H, Mitsuda A, Kawanami C, Uchida Y, Ogawa C, Kusakabe A, Narita R, Ide Y, Abe T, Tsuji K, Kitamura T, Okada K, Sohda T, Shigeno M, Satou T, Izumi N. PLoS One. 2018 Apr 16;13(4):e0194704. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0194704. - Incidence of Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Patients with HCV-associated Cirrhosis Treated with Direct-Acting Antiviral Agents. Calvaruso V, Cabibbo G, Cacciola I, Petta S, Madonia S, Bellia A, Tinè F, Distefano M, Licata A, Giannitrapani L, Prestileo T, Mazzola G, Di Rosolini MA, Larocca L, Bertino G, Digiacomo A, Benanti F, Guarneri L, Averna A, Iacobello C, Magro A, Scalisi I, Cartabellotta F, Savalli F, Barbara M, Davì A, Russello M, Scifo G, Squadrito G, Cammà C, Raimondo G, Craxì A, Di Marco V; Rete Sicilia Selezione Terapia - HCV (RESIST-HCV). Gastroenterology. 2018 Apr 12. pii: S0016-5085(18)30441-4 - Liver Angiopoietin-2 is a key predictor of de novo or recurrent hepatocellular cancer after HCV direct-acting antivirals. Faillaci F, Marzi L, Critelli R, Milosa F, Schepis F, Turola E, Andreani S, Vandelli G, Bernabucci V, Lei B, D'Ambrosio F, Bristot L, Cavalletto L, Chemello L, Sighinolfi P, Manni P, Maiorana A, Caporali C, Bianchini M, Marsico M, Turco L, de Maria N, Del Buono M, Todesca P, di Lena L, Romagnoli D, Magistri P, di Benedetto F, Bruno S, Taliani G, Giannelli G, Martinez-Chantar ML, Villa E. Hepatology. 2018 Mar 31 - Abenavoli L, Boccuto L. New serum markers for detection of early hepatocellular carcinoma. Panminerva Med. 2017 Dec;59(4):281-282. 2- There are some typographical errors in the Reference paragraph: please, check them.

## INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

### *Google Search:*

[ ] The same title

☐ Duplicate publication

☐ Plagiarism

☐ Yes ☐ No

***BPG Search:***

☐ The same title

☐ Duplicate publication

☐ Plagiarism

☐ Yes ☐ No

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 39311

**Title:** Direct-acting antivirals and hepatocellular carcinoma in chronic hepatitis C: a few lights and many shadows.

**Reviewer's code:** 02540539

**Reviewer's country:** Japan

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2018-04-21

**Date reviewed:** 2018-04-23

**Review time:** 2 Days

| SCIENTIFIC QUALITY                          | LANGUAGE QUALITY                                      | CONCLUSION                              | PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS              |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept         | Peer-Review:                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language      | (High priority)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good      | polishing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept         | <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of     | (General priority)                      | Peer-reviewer's expertise on the      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not    | language polishing                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision | topic of the manuscript:              |
| publish                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection           | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced     |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection      | <input type="checkbox"/> General      |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> No expertise |
|   |   |   | Conflicts-of-Interest:                |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes          |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> No           |

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Shimizu et al. published an article regarding the relationship of occult HBV infection and HCC recurrence after DAA. Shimizu, H., Matsui, K., Iwabuchi, S. et al. Relationship of hepatitis B virus infection to the recurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma after direct



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acting antivirals Indian J Gastroenterol (2017) 36: 235. They found a striking association between anti-HBc positivity and HCC recurrence after DAA therapy. Please include their insights into your manuscript.

#### **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

##### ***Google Search:***

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

##### ***BPG Search:***

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 39311

**Title:** Direct-acting antivirals and hepatocellular carcinoma in chronic hepatitis C: a few lights and many shadows.

**Reviewer's code:** 00187828

**Reviewer's country:** Turkey

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2018-04-21

**Date reviewed:** 2018-04-27

**Review time:** 5 Days

| SCIENTIFIC QUALITY                                | LANGUAGE QUALITY  | CONCLUSION                                 | PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS                      |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing       | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept            | Peer-Review:                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language | (High priority)                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | polishing   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept | <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of           | (General priority)                         | Peer-reviewer's expertise on the              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not          | language polishing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision    | topic of the manuscript:                      |
| publish   | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced  |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection         | <input type="checkbox"/> General              |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> No expertise         |
|   |   |  | Conflicts-of-Interest:                        |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes                  |
|   |   |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No        |

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The review entitled "Direct-acting antivirals and hepatocellular carcinoma in chronic hepatitis C: a few lights and many shadows" by Guarino et al., has been assessed as follows; This review analyses the scientific literature regarding the risk of HCC in terms

of its recurrence and occurrence after the use of DAAs to eradicate HCV infection. , this review does not suggest that there is a higher rate of de novo HCC occurrence or recurrence after DAA therapy in patients with previous HCV infection.

#### INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

##### *Google Search:*

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

##### *BPG Search:*

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 39311

**Title:** Direct-acting antivirals and hepatocellular carcinoma in chronic hepatitis C: a few lights and many shadows.

**Reviewer's code:** 03538158

**Reviewer's country:** Japan

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2018-04-21

**Date reviewed:** 2018-04-30

**Review time:** 9 Days

| SCIENTIFIC QUALITY                                | LANGUAGE QUALITY  | CONCLUSION   | PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS                      |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing       | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept                    | Peer-Review:                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language | (High priority)                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | polishing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of           | (General priority)                                 | Peer-reviewer's expertise on the              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not          | language polishing  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision | topic of the manuscript:                      |
| publish   | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision            | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced             |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General   |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> No expertise         |
|   |   |  | Conflicts-of-Interest:                        |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes                  |
|   |   |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No        |

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

1. Authors described "Studies from the IFN-era taught us that HCV eradication reduces but does not eliminate the risk of HCC once cirrhosis has been established (5)." However, Nishiguchi et al. [Lancet. 1995] demonstrated that interferon-alpha improved liver



function and that its use could be associated with a reduction of HCC in patients with chronic HCV infection and cirrhosis. Authors should discuss more carefully. 2. HCV-DAA and HCC recurrence Authors should refer the recent editorial of Hepatology International (2018 Mar;12(2):90-93. doi: 10.1007/s12072-018-9862-1.) at the point of recurrence after DAA treatment.

#### INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

##### *Google Search:*

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

##### *BPG Search:*

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No