

May 16th, 2019

Re: Manuscript No. 47268

Dear Editor,

thank you for your letter of May 14th and the possibility of resubmitting our revised manuscript titled "Epidemiology of hepatitis E in South-East Europe in the "One Health" concept" for consideration for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

We have carefully considered the reviewers' comments, and have revised the manuscript accordingly. The changes are marked **in red** in the revised manuscript. Below are the answers to specific reviewers' comments.

Reviewer #1: ID 01221188

The review describes the details of the epidemiology of hepatitis E virus infection in South-East Europe. This article is well described and valuable to understand the epidemiology of HEV infection. Minor revisions 1) The figure legend is necessary for the Fig.

We thank the reviewer for positive remarks. We have corrected the figure accordingly.

Reviewer #2: ID 00722050

In this study, the authors attempts to perform a systematic review regarding hepatitis E distribution in humans, animals and environmental samples based on "One Health" concept in the South-Eastern European countries. Authors state that by comparing the the available data, the anti-HEV seroprevalence in the South-Eastern Europe appears to vary, depending on studied population, geographical area as well as the methods used. Authors have discussed each country separately .Precisely speaking, authors further report that older age was the most significant predictor for HEV seropositivity in most studies while/risk factor . Authors further discuss the seroprevalence rates found in animal found to be higher while data on HEV prevalence in environmental samples is rather scarce. Additionally, the data on genetic characterization demonstrated that human, animal and environmental HEV strains mainly belong to the genotype 3. Authors finally suggest that development of a vaccine against the zoonotic genotypes 3 and 4 and vaccination of swine is worth considering since it may provide health benefits , particularly to for high-risk populations such as organ transplant recipients since the majority of the chronic hepatitis E are caused by the zoonotic HEV-3 .

Comments: Overall it is a great study. It cites a substantial number of papers while report some important information. However, I have few suggestions as follows, 2. It should be indicated that the work consists of a bibliographic review, both in the title, and include a section of methodology used. 3. After Introduction, manuscript directly jumps on the topic of Hep E prevalence in the countries. In my opinion , there should be a methodology section, indicating the databases analyzed, search strategy used, as well as descriptors, years, etc. 4. Also the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the articles found, indicating the total number of articles found, included and excluded. 5. Few spelling errors are present throughout the manuscript, and should be corrected.

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

We thank the reviewer for the positive remarks, and agree about the comments regarding the methodology. As suggested, after the introduction we have added a methodology section, indicating analyzed databases, strategy, descriptors as well as the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

We corrected several typos and additionally revised manuscript for grammar and language.

In conclusion, we thank the reviewers for recognizing the presented mini-review as a good scientific effort, as well as for the useful and constructive comments, which made us think more critically about the presentation of our data. We hope that we have improved the consistency, clarity and interpretation of data in the revised manuscript and that the revised manuscript will meet the reviewers' requirements and be suitable for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Thank you again for the privilege of submitting our work to *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely,

Anna Mrzljak, MD