

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



Dear Editor,

Title: Determining hepatitis C virus genotype distribution among high-risk groups in Iran using Real-time PCR

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 4788

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1- Although all IDUs in this study with an addictive- drug using history in a short or long time between a few months to a several years, 72% of them had more than one risk factor.

Among them, more than 70% had a history of imprisonment of variable lengths. Tattoos were other crucial risk factor that was seen only in patients who had a history of imprisonment. Drinking alcohol and having multiple sex partners were the other risk factors, there was a little data in these regards.

HCV suffers	+Imprisonment tattoo	& +imprisonment	+ No risk factor	other	Total
Injection Drug Users	70	235	134		439 (80%)
non-Injection Drug	63	23	25		111 (20%)

Users

Total	133 (24%)	265 (48%)	159 (28%)	550(100%)
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2- Many studies have been carried out in different regions of Iran on IDUs. Generally, in Iran, HCV sero-positivity among the addicts has been higher than that in general population (30-90% vs. 0.2%-1%). We will discuss the issue of addiction and HCV in Iran in our future studies.

3-Since Iranian people have no extensive communication with Pakistan and neighboring Arab countries, where gt3 and gt4 are dominant respectively, the difference in HCV genotypes pattern seems to be logical. On the other hand, HCV genotype pattern in Iran is similar to that in Turkey where the Iranians communicate and travel more frequently.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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