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**Manuscript NO:** 59251

**Manuscript Type:** META-ANALYSIS

Occult <sup>4</sup> hepatitis C virus infection in the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean countries: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Mohammad Reza Hedayati-Moghaddam, Hossein Soltanian, Sanaz Ahmadi-Ghezeldasht

## Abstract

### BACKGROUND

The presence of hepatitis C virus (HCV) RNA in liver tissue or peripheral blood mononuclear cells with no identified virus genome in the serum has been reported worldwide among patients with either normal or elevated serum liver enzymes. The characterization of occult HCV infection (OCI) epidemiology in the

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Apr 19, 2016 · The eastern Mediterranean regional office of the WHO comprises **22 countries**, stretching from central Asia and the Middle East through **north Africa**, with a combined population of almost 583 million people. This region displays a heterogeneous distribution of HCV with at least 21.3 million **HCV-infected patients** (5).

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Nov 17, 2020 · Of 1221 publications identified, 194 were deemed to be eligible and included in the systematic review and meta-analysis. Overall, the pooled HCV prevalence in MSM was 3·4% (95% CI 2·8–4·0; I<sup>2</sup> =98·0%) and was highest in **Africa** (5·8%, 2·5–10·4) and **South-East Asia** (5·0%, 0·0–16·6). Globally, **HCV** prevalence was 1·5% (1·0–2·1) in HIV-negative MSM and 6·3% (5·3–7·5) in HIV ...

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Half of people who **inject drugs** in the **Middle East** and **North Africa** appear to have ever been **infected** with **hepatitis C virus**, but there are large variations in **antibody prevalence** among countries. In addition to > 200 000 chronically **infected** current people who **inject drugs**, there is an unknown number of people who no longer **inject drugs** who may have acquired **hepatitis C virus** during past **injecting drug** ...

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The **Middle East region** is a geographical area that consists mainly of countries in **Southwest Asia** and parts of **North Africa**. The prevalence of **HCV infection in Middle Eastern** countries varies geographically. With the exception of **Egypt**, the average **overall HCV prevalence** rate in most countries of the **Middle East** ranges from 1% - 4%.

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Sep 01, 2018 · **Occult hepatitis C virus infection** (OCI) is defined as the presence of HCV RNA in liver or peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) in the absence of detectable HCV antibody or HCV RNA in the serum. In this study, we aimed to investigate the existence of **occult hepatitis C virus infection** in PBMCs of haemodialysis (HD) patients in one center.

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Jan 23, 2019 · Expanding **hepatitis C virus** (HCV) treatment coverage is challenged by limited testing and diagnosis. This study assessed the risk of exposure, for the **Middle East** and North Africa, by population, yields of testing, and program efficiency of testing strategies. ...

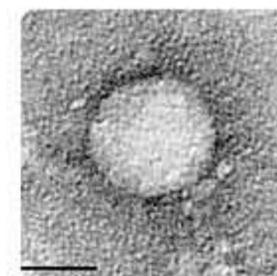
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## Hepatitis C virus

Rna Viru



The hepatitis C virus is a small, enveloped, positive-sense single-stranded RNA virus of the family Flaviviridae. The hepatitis C virus is the cause of hepatitis C and some cancers such as liver cancer and lymphomas in humans.

 Wikipedia**Higher classification:** Hepacivirus**Scientific name:** Hepatitis C Virus**Family:** Flaviviridae**Kingdom:** Virus**Phylum:** Kitrinoviricota**Biological rank:** Species

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