

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 62626

Title: Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and COVID-19: an epidemic that begets pandemic

Reviewer's code: 04054541

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Postdoc, Research Fellow

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: United Kingdom

Manuscript submission date: 2021-01-13

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-01-15 13:02

Reviewer performed review: 2021-01-17 13:29

Review time: 2 Days

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Here the authors describe the current COVID-19 pandemic situation and they reviewed the possible connections and implication of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) in the severity of Covid-19 infection. The authors described in detail both syndromes and trace a possible line of connection between the two diseases: in fact, there is a high percentage of liver dysfunction in Covid-19 patients and the severity of Covid-19 infection is increased in presence of NAFLD and obesity. The inflammatory process triggered during the progression of NAFLD could be one of the possible explanations of this connection between Covid-19 and NAFLD. In addition, there is also the downside: the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic has also led to an increase and worsening of NAFLD cases because, due to the lockdown, many follow-ups of patients with this disease have been suspended to take care of the most severely affected by Covid-19. In my opinion, this review is well written and proceeds logically. The literature has been properly read and the review reports the knowledge that is currently available on the subject. I believe that a revision of the English language is necessary accompanied by the correction of some oversights in the text that I list below. - Please, standardize all numbers in the text. Some are in letters others in numbers. I believe that writing them all in numbers would make reading easier. - There are extra spaces between the word and the references 2, 6, 31 and 37, while all other references are indicated without space between them and the word that precedes them. Please correct them. - There are many extra-spaces between two words in the text: I list them here: lines 73, 95, 129, 137, 138, 177, 199, 216, 226, 233. Please, remove them. - In line 80, the wording "Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease" should have a lower initial letter. - In lines 164, the word "Patients" should be written with an initial lower letter. The same error appears also for "Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease" in line 246 and the word "Diabetes" in line 247. Please



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correct all of them. - In line 97, there are spaces between the percentages 20% and 30% and 5% and 18%, in other percentages indicated with the hyphen there are no spaces, please standardize all percentages present in the text. -In line 145, the acronym AST should be preceded by its full wording. - In line 148, the acronym NAFLD is incorrect. Please, check it. - In line 200 the wording “de novo” should be written in italic. - In the bibliography section, references 5 and 46 are missing page numbers.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 62626

Title: Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and COVID-19: an epidemic that begets pandemic

Reviewer's code: 00050195

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MA, MD, MSc

Professional title: Associate Professor, Senior Lecturer

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Israel

Author's Country/Territory: United Kingdom

Manuscript submission date: 2021-01-13

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-01-15 02:24

Reviewer performed review: 2021-01-19 18:21

Review time: 4 Days and 15 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors describe a review of the connection between NAFLD and COVID-19 infection. The manuscript needs extensive revision by a native English speaker. We have several comments. 1. We are not sure that NAFLD as a higher prevalence in patients with COVID but there are more symptomatic cases with more complications. The authors should produce evidence to support their statement that NAFLD has a higher rate of infection of COVID compared to other populations. 2. In the abstract the authors state that obesity is a “silent epidemic”. We do not think that obesity is silent- it is visually obvious. 3. There is a new definition of fatty liver- metabolic predominant, alcohol-predominant and mixed -Eslam M Sanyal AJ, George J Gastroenterology 2020. 4. The authors refer to the metabolic syndrome but do not define it, and mention the different definitions for both N American/European patients compared to Asian patients. 5. The authors refer to the PNPLA3 polymorphism as a risk factor for recurrence of NAFLD after transplantation but it is a risk factor in itself and the prevalence varies in different populations- for instance it is higher in Hispanic Americans. 6. It is more accurate to refer to liver enzyme abnormalities instead of liver function abnormalities

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 62626

Title: Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and COVID-19: an epidemic that begets pandemic

Reviewer's code: 01548345

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor, Doctor, Research Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: United Kingdom

Manuscript submission date: 2021-01-13

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-01-15 00:19

Reviewer performed review: 2021-01-20 01:30

Review time: 5 Days and 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

A review article titled “Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and COVID-19: an epidemic that begets pandemic” has described a hot topic, which is still supported by immature pieces of evidence. 1. This reviewer thinks that the section under “Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease” needs to be compacted and concisely described. 2. Section “Interactions between non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and COVID-19” needs to provide data between two diseases. There are only brief reports between NAFLD and COVID-19 provided in this part. Otherwise, diabetes and metabolic syndrome were associated with COVID-19, and the association between bacterial infections and NAFLD was relatively irrelative for this topic. It would be better to provide more evidence between NAFLD and COVID-19 for this review article. 3. Likewise, the mechanism between two diseases may have to describe more specifically. 4. There are lots of typos and grammatical errors. 5. COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease-19) already included “disease” in this term. It would be better to delete ‘disease’ after this term.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 62626

Title: Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and COVID-19: an epidemic that begets pandemic

Reviewer's code: 05208114

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MBBS, MD

Professional title: Doctor, Teaching Assistant

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: United Kingdom

Manuscript submission date: 2021-01-13

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-01-16 02:49

Reviewer performed review: 2021-02-03 04:30

Review time: 18 Days and 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This work by Musaab Ahmed and Mohamed H. Ahmed investigated NAFLD can be associated with a higher risk for COVID-19. According to the results of the systematic review, and these observations may also help in part to enhance our understanding of the relationship of them. Therefore, this review is necessary and has some novelty, and provided some valuable evidence for clinical practice. In my opinion, this manuscript is suitable for publication.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 62626

Title: Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and COVID-19: an epidemic that begets pandemic

Reviewer's code: 04054541

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Postdoc, Research Fellow

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: United Kingdom

Manuscript submission date: 2021-01-13

Reviewer chosen by: Man Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-03-02 09:21

Reviewer performed review: 2021-03-02 11:25

Review time: 2 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



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In this new revised version of the paper entitled “Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and COVID-19: an epidemic that begets pandemic” the authors have fulfilled all my requests. So I am completely satisfied and I give my full consent to the publication of the manuscript.