

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

Manuscript NO: 65475

Title: Hepatitis E virus in professionally exposed: a reason for concern?

Reviewer's code: 05125057

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Croatia

Author's Country/Territory: Croatia

Manuscript submission date: 2021-03-14

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-03-15 09:24

Reviewer performed review: 2021-03-19 16:39

Review time: 4 Days and 7 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 Grade E: Do not publish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 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



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript entitled 'Hepatitis E virus in professionally exposed: a reason for concern?' is engaging. The authors clearly explained the HEV seroprevalence in different occupations in close contact with different animals that are reservoirs of HEV. As the authors mentioned, the HEV seroprevalence is high in pet owners; they could add that seroprevalence's numerical data. Though, this study's objective was not to show the HEV seroprevalence in pet owners. As the paper provides insight into the HEV seroprevalence in different occupational groups, it would be interesting to know which of the mentioned occupations (veterinarians, farmers, butchers, slaughterhouse workers, forestry workers, hunters) have the highest HEV seroprevalence. I.E., which occupation has the highest risk of HEV infection.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

Manuscript NO: 65475

Title: Hepatitis E virus in professionally exposed: a reason for concern?

Reviewer's code: 03664480

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Australia

Author's Country/Territory: Croatia

Manuscript submission date: 2021-03-14

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-03-14 22:18

Reviewer performed review: 2021-03-23 03:51

Review time: 8 Days and 5 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 type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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

This opinion piece has some interesting facts about the risk of acquiring HEV in those that are professionally exposed to the known animal reservoirs. There is certainly a need to improve our understanding of the epidemiology of this virus. While this manuscript is reasonably well-written there are some areas that should be re-phrased and/or clarified, and some grammatical corrections. I recommend revision before considering publication. See individual points below and track-changes in manuscript:

- There were no line numbers to aid the reviewer
- Abstract: Please define what is meant by “One Health” approach
- Line 134: However, some studies found no differences in the HEV prevalence between workers at zoonotic risk and control groups – This statement seems out of context in this paragraph. The following statement, lines 135-138, needs re-phrasing.
- Line 160: India (75% vs. 10.71%), comment needed to here to clarify that the 10.71 % “general population” only drank filtered water and therefore results may be misleading.
- Line 170: prevalence ratio (PR) – needs to provide definition
- The paragraph on protective equipment is contradictory and needs clarification. Authors should make a statement and then provide supporting or opposing evidence
- Authors should elaborate on the vaccine. What is available? Does it work? Etc
- Lines 224 – 226: the evidence for use of gloves is confusing and contradictory. Perhaps the authors should state that “Despite conflicting evidence, the authors believe the use of personal protection minimises the risk of infection”
- The first sentence of the conclusion needs to be re-phrased. Perhaps start with “Given the high seroprevalence....”
- End of conclusion - Authors use the term occupational disease – but it is not just occupational, so suggest deleting this last phrase.
- Table 1: Authors should be consistent with the documentation of PR – sometimes it’s in brackets and sometimes not

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

Manuscript NO: 65475

Title: Hepatitis E virus in professionally exposed: a reason for concern?

Reviewer's code: 05125057

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Croatia

Author's Country/Territory: Croatia

Manuscript submission date: 2021-03-14

Reviewer chosen by: Man Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-04-06 06:16

Reviewer performed review: 2021-04-06 06:28

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" 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
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 have added the required information.