

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Hepatology*

**Manuscript NO:** 67109

**Title:** Tumor characteristics of hepatocellular carcinoma after direct-acting antiviral treatment for hepatitis C: Comparative analysis with antiviral therapy-naive patients

**Reviewer's code:** 03195661

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** Egypt

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-04-15

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-04-15 08:28

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-04-21 14:43

**Review time:** 6 Days and 6 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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 Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<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
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	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 work by Magdy Fouad et al. retrospectively analyzed the differences in basic clinical, radiological and laboratory characteristics as well as tumor behavior upon HCC diagnosis between patients with and without a previous history of DAAs exposure. The authors reported that aggressive tumours were more common in DAAs exposed patients and anti-HCV therapy in HCC patients should be postponed until a consistent risk-benefit ratio is established through further research. This work is interesting and instructive. There are several questions should be addressed before acceptance. 1. The third paragraph in introduction is obscure. First, I could not retrieve the cited paper in Pubmed (ref 6); second, the author should have cited the paper by the Italian group. So, "This study included 344 patients with HCV-related cirrhosis who received different DAA regimens", who conducted this study? 2. What is the final outcome (Overall survival, RFS) of these patients? Follow-up data are required. 3. The statement "group 1/I", "group 2/II" should be consistent throughout the paper. There are several writing errors in this manuscript.

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**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Hepatology*

**Manuscript NO:** 67109

**Title:** Tumor characteristics of hepatocellular carcinoma after direct-acting antiviral treatment for hepatitis C: Comparative analysis with antiviral therapy-naive patients

**Reviewer's code:** 03730379

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Assistant Professor, Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Portugal

**Author's Country/Territory:** Egypt

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-04-15

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

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**Review time:** 5 Days and 5 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<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
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	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**

Dear authors This in an important issue that has created doubts in the hepatology community. However, it is now recognized that the effect of higher rates of HCC after treatment with DAA could be related to treat worse patients that would never tolerate IFN-based therapies. Your study is very interesting as it presents different results, but there are some question that should be clarified: Why were patients from group II not treated with DAA? Were they treated with IFN-based therapies? Had they achieved SVR? Were there other cause-related deaths in group II? As they had more advanced liver disease they could not have time to develop HCC. In the case of your results, how would you explain higher rates of HCC with DAA treated patients?

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**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Hepatology*

**Manuscript NO:** 67109

**Title:** Tumor characteristics of hepatocellular carcinoma after direct-acting antiviral treatment for hepatitis C: Comparative analysis with antiviral therapy-naive patients

**Reviewer's code:** 05910422

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** India

**Author's Country/Territory:** Egypt

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**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

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**Review time:** 11 Days and 20 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
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<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	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**

Manuscript overall is very good.... but the authors need to summarise the data into tables and the conclusion can be a little more elaborate.....add a note on limitations of the study