

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 71435

Title: Dynamics of cytokines predicts risk of hepatocellular carcinoma among chronic hepatitis C patients after viral eradication

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 02446483

Position: Editor-in-Chief

Academic degree: FRCP (C), MD, MSc, PhD

Professional title: Full Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Canada

Author's Country/Territory: Taiwan

Manuscript submission date: 2021-09-08

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-09-10 12:18

Reviewer performed review: 2021-09-13 22:08

Review time: 3 Days and 9 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 Grade E: Do not publish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="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Clearance of hepatitis C virus (HCV) by direct-acting antivirals (DAA) or interferon results in host immune change. Reconstitution of immune surveillance after viral eradication may influence hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) occurrence. The authors investigated the impact of differential cytokine expression on the development of HCC following antiviral therapy. HCC developed in 12 of the 97 patients over 459 person-years after HCV eradication. According to the data produced by the authors, dynamics of serum tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF- α) predicts HCC development in HCV patients with advanced fibrosis following successful viral eradication. I don't find any challenges in the manuscript, but some sentences could be better formulated. The graphics needs to improved.

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Manuscript NO: 71435

Title: Dynamics of cytokines predicts risk of hepatocellular carcinoma among chronic hepatitis C patients after viral eradication

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05457585

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, MSc, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Bangladesh

Author's Country/Territory: Taiwan

Manuscript submission date: 2021-09-08

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-09-09 03:23

Reviewer performed review: 2021-09-22 01:14

Review time: 12 Days and 21 Hours

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 type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Anonymous [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Manuscript Number: 71435 Title: The dynamics of cytokines predicts risk of hepatocellular carcinoma among chronic hepatitis C patients after viral eradication
Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology Minor comments: The author appraised this paper by evaluating the impact of differential cytokine expression on the development of Hepatocellular carcinoma following antiviral therapy. However, your article is inadequately presented. Furthermore, there are many problems in the different sections as well. Although the article has scientific rigor, several minor flows need to be improved before publication. 1. The abstract section can improve—add a focus point in the abstract section. 2. Rewrite the conclusion (in the abstract) in a more straightforward form. 3. The primary endpoint was the development of de novo HCC. What does it mean? 4. Is it necessary to show the HCC predictive model in abstract? 5. Authors are suggested to use the full form when used for the first time throughout the manuscript. 6. The introduction section looks good. Authors can try to include the existing research limitations also, how the present research unravels those limits. 7. Aim of the study should need to add as the last paragraph in the introduction. 8. Material and methods also look good. Need a logical flow of the writings with enough references. 9. Check all the gene symbols. 10. Sustained virologic response was defined as undetectable HCV RNA throughout 12 weeks (SVR12) for the DAA group or 24 weeks for the IFN group (SVR24) after completion of antiviral therapy. Any references? 11. This assay was performed according to the manufacturer's instructions. Need a brief description. 12. The results section can improve by adding significant results. 13. The writing of results is good. Need to maintain a logical flow of the writings. 14. Figures



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presentation is up to mark. 15. Figure legends are not self-explanatory. Need to confirm without the repetition of the results and discussion in the figure legends. 16. The discussion is good. The discussion section can improve by including the data from other sources about related works. 17. The conclusion needs to address future perspectives. 18. Novelty of the work should be added by the author in the conclusion section. 19. Many spacing, punctuation marks problem found in the tables. 20. Spacing, punctuation marks, grammar, and spelling errors should be reviewed thoroughly. I found so many typos throughout the manuscript.