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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 77577

Title: Pregnancy and fetal outcomes of chronic hepatitis C mothers with viremia in China

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 00032020
Position: Editorial Board
Academic degree: MD, PhD
Professional title: Professor
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan
Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-05-24

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-05-26 03:39

Reviewer performed review: 2022-05-27 06:02

Review time: 1 Day and 2 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [Y] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing [ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [Y] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[ ] Yes [Y] No

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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Manuscript NO: 77577 Title: Pregnancy and fetal outcomes of chronic hepatitis C mothers with viremia in China Manuscript Type: Retrospective Cohort Study This was an informative report about HCV infection in pregnant women and neonate. Some queries should be clear. First, Table 1 showed the data at baseline in both HCV infected mother and healthy mothers. To compare outcome during pregnancy, more information should be shown; for examples, hemoglobin, platelet counts, and prothrombin time. How about enrolment of pregnant women with advanced fibrosis? Next, it is difficult to understand the results in Table 4, and 5. What was Case/Exposed? In my thought: C-section; Age <35 59/169 (35%), Age ≥35 11/25 (44%). How about this? Authors should revie them. Next, was 33 cm of the neonate head circumference critical borderline for development of intelligence? Authors should show the setting basis of neonate head circumference. Finally, authors concluded that the negative outcome were associated with HCV viremia. However, chronic HCV infection induced several disorders in liver. Which was directly associated with negative outcome, HCV viremia or liver disorder? Some comments had better be added in Discussion. Minor; Line 3, Page 3; 'Their HCV-ab' should be revised 'Their HCV-Ab'. Table 4; There was no data about Anemia. Authors should add the data.

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 00465831
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Brazil

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-05-24

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-05-25 17:40

Reviewer performed review: 2022-06-10 02:35

Review time: 15 Days and 8 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [Y] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The paper presented by Pan et al. is a study conducted with a cohort of HCV-infected and non-infected pregnant women. This study assessed the influences and risk of HCV infection on the occurrence of unfavorable gestational and neonatal factors. Furthermore, it was to provide maternal-infant transmission rates in this population. The authors presented an article with an interesting goal and scope, as well as being well written and presented in a cohesive and understandable manner, with data highly relevant to the topic of HCV infection during pregnancy. However, some points require minor revision and attention to make them more clear. Here are a few suggestions that may help to improve this paper further: On the page 6, in the paragraph 1 - in the part where the authors talk about: "which occurs in approximately 6% of infants born to women with HCV infection", Here it might be worth comment about that the higher the viral load of these pregnant women, the higher the likelihood of MTCT (Pott et al, 2018; Terrault et al, 2020). In the methods section, in the three first lines, in the subsection "Study design, setting, and patient selections" more information about the study's location should be provided. Where exactly was this study conducted? In what part of China? Does this referral center receive pregnant women from all over China or only from one region?

In the subsection "Patient data collection and outcome assessment", in the last paragraph, in the part where the authors talk about: "finding elevated serum aminotransferase levels in the HCV-Ab positive child", What was the threshold used to determine elevated aminotransferase levels? It would be interesting to have the normal ranges available. Table 1 - The presented subtitle is unclear. "*All cases in the study were singleton" Table 4 - in the last line, in the parameter "Anemia", Isn't there something

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missing? Where can I find the data for this category, as well as the others? It is also necessary to include. In the discussion section, in the part where the authors talk about: "(high prevalence of HCV genotype 1)", Was genotype 1 prevalent in this population? The genotype data was not included in the results section; it would be useful to include this information to support the proposed hypothesis.

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Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 00012973

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Chief Physician

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-05-24

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-06-09 03:17

Reviewer performed review: 2022-06-17 00:38

Review time: 7 Days and 21 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors and his team did make a good job to fulfil the gap of HCV active infection influence on pregnancy and infant outcomes. The manuscript is recommended to be accepted with minor revision. When considering risks factors associated with obstetric complications, more factors regarding obstetrics should be considered rather than simply age, parity, BMI and HCV infection. Factors such as fetal weight, pelvic condition and previous uterine surgery could have direct influence on complications like caesarean section and nuchal cord. Several writing mistakes exists with the manuscript in numbers and units.