

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 78801

Title: Insights into hepatitis E virus epidemiology in Croatia

Provenance and peer review: Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06261130

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Croatia

Manuscript submission date: 2022-07-16

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-07-18 02:42

Reviewer performed review: 2022-07-27 02:45

Review time: 9 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 Grade E: Do not publish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 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 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	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous

statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This study investigated the seroprevalence rates of HEV IgG in different populations. Their results are comprehensive and have great importance. 1. In this study, the authors used HEV IgG positivity to represent the epidemiology in Croatia. Can the results of HEV IgM positivity and HEV RNA test results be obtained and added? 2. In the MATERIALS AND METHODS section, the authors claimed that they use a commercial enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay based on recombinant antigens of HEV genotypes 1 and 3 to detect HEV IgG antibody. Does this assay have the ability to detect HEV IgG antibody induced by other HEV genotypes? As we all know, HEV4 are also prevalent in many regions worldwide. Could this affect the results of the study? 3. Grammar mistakes can be found in this manuscript. Please make revisions.

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Provenance and peer review: Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

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: 2022-07-16

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-07-18 00:41

Reviewer performed review: 2022-07-29 07:37

Review time: 11 Days and 6 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
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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting manuscript describing the prevalence of antibodies to HEV in different populations in Croatia. It is generally well-written. There is 1 particularly misleading claim on page 5 - HEV is not the leading cause of viral hepatitis (Hep B is first, then Hep C). This needs to be re-written. The discussion is very long and goes into a lot of detail about other studies. I think this should be revised and there should be more discussion about the implications for Croatia. The authors describe a significant difference in shellfish consumption - this looks like it shellfish consumption is inversely proportional to seroprevalence (Table 4). Can you please comment on this?