

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 79988

Title: Relation between COVID-19 with liver diseases and its impact on healthcare systems: the Portuguese case

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06364911

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Bangladesh

Author's Country/Territory: Portugal

Manuscript submission date: 2022-09-13

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-09-16 17:51

Reviewer performed review: 2022-09-28 05:01

Review time: 11 Days and 11 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 Grade E: Do not publish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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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**Peer-reviewer
statements**

Peer-Review: ☒ Anonymous ☐ Onymous

Conflicts-of-Interest: ☐ Yes ☒ No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Comments File Attached.

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Manuscript NO: 79988

Title: Relation between COVID-19 with liver diseases and its impact on healthcare systems: the Portuguese case

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

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Reviewer's code: 06405327

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: Portugal

Manuscript submission date: 2022-09-13

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-10-20 09:36

Reviewer performed review: 2022-10-28 12:45

Review time: 8 Days and 3 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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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

This review manuscript addresses the impact that COVID-19 has had on the healthcare system, how COVID-19 affects the liver, and the literature on COVID-19 liver-associated damage in Portugal. The manuscript is well-written, and it is easy to follow. In general terms my concern is that the manuscript's title and abstract discuss focus on Portugal, while the manuscript itself has a small section about portugal. As a reader, if I were to read the title and abstract of this manuscript, I would be missguided to expect a manuscript that discusses Portugal and COVID-19 related liver damage, when in turn, most of the manuscript is either not about liver (general impact of covid in health care services) nor about portugal (general association between liver damage and covid). Therefore, I suggest adapting the title and the abstract to reflect the manuscript. Similarly, in general terms, the authors use infected and patient interchangeably without describing whether the patient is in the community or hospitalized. Please clarify on each statement or in general, whether the manuscript focuses more on community rather than hospital patients. (NB, this is done in many sections of the manuscript already).

Abstract: "Despite not being among the most frequent comorbidities, liver injury is common in COVID-19-infected patients" Is it more common than non-infected? "To identify and discuss the incidence of preexisting liver-associated diseases and liver injuries induced by COVID-19 in Portuguese patients infected with SARS-CoV-2." Community or hosp patients? "Portugal was one of the many countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. All elective and non-urgent health care were suspended, and the primary health services were also affected, which caused an impact on the waiting lists for hospital medical specialties, an increase in telemedicine, and a reduction in medical



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observations." Are these the results of the review or a simple observation? This is applicable to any other country in Europe. "COVID - 19 combined with liver injury is common, and liver damage represents a risk factor that worsens in patients with COVID - 19" Again, community vs hosp. Liver injury is a risk factor for what? And what worsens? COVID's prognosis? Introduction "In addition, despite not being among the most frequent comorbidities, the pathologies associated with the liver are hardly ever missing from the list of preexisting health conditions in COVID-19-infected patients" Patients as hosp? Search strategy and selection of studies "First, the authors discussed the keywords to be used in the search, agreeing upon the following string and operators: ["Portugal" or "Portuguese patients" AND "COVID" OR "SARS-CoV-2" OR "coronavirus" AND "liver" or "hepatic condition" OR "chronic hepatitis" AND "clinical manifestations" OR "outcomes" AND "COVID-19 treatment"] to be found either in the titles, abstracts, or keywords of the articles." It is unclear if these were the search terms of the engine or the screening criteria. The confusing part is the last sentence. "A two-stage approach was used to assess the retrieved studies. First, only the titles and abstracts were scanned to determine eligibility according to the research objective and criteria. Second, the full texts of the selected papers were read and thoroughly analyzed."

State whether it was done by one reviewer or two The "COVID-19, HEALTH CARE AND CLINICAL PRACTICE IN PORTUGAL" section is not related to the aim of this study, again, consider broadening the aim of the study or delete it. Same of "COVID-19 and liver disease" section. Discussion Some of the citations in the discussion are in a different format. A limitations section should be included.