

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

Manuscript NO: 80986

Title: COVID-19 and liver dysfunction in children: Current views and new hypotheses

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03622345

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: Doctor, MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Reviewer_Country

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-10-28

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-10-28 14:04

Reviewer performed review: 2022-11-01 06:54

Review time: 3 Days and 16 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" 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 Grade E: Do not publish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 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
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous

statements	Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Comments: “Recently, several studies have provided the results of abnormal liver tests in pediatric COVID-19. Alkan et al[19] found that 130 (44.2%) of 294 patients (age range: 14 days–18 years) with COVID-19 had abnormal liver function and most patients (33.3%) were characterized by elevated ALT, and other patients had elevated ALT (5.1%), ALP (6.6%), GGT (8.9%) and TBIL (3.8%). In addition, decreased albumin was also observed by Esmaeili et al[20] and Liu et al[21]. In their studies, the proportion of decreased albumin in pediatric patients was 16.7%[20] and 18.2%[21], respectively. In general, the main manifestations of CRLI in children were mildly elevated ALT/AST and most research has confirmed this, for instance, Parri N et al[22] reported on 130 children (age range: 0–17 years) with COVID-19 in Italy, and 8/68 (11.8%) children had elevated ALT and 11/60 (18.3%) had elevated AST. The analysis by Du et al[23] showed that ALT and AST increased in 9 (5.0%) and 24 (13.3%) of 180 subjects (age range: 0–15 years), respectively, and 11 (6.3%) of 174 subjects showed increased ALP levels. Thus, the elevation of liver enzymes in pediatric patients is not significant, which may be due to the fact that COVID-19 is mainly mild in children. In addition, Sun et al[24] conducted a single center observational study of 8 children (age range: 2 months–15 years) with severe COVID-19 and the results showed that ALT was increased in 4 (50.0%) cases, but increased AST was not observed. It is possible that sometimes abnormally elevated ALT/AST is not a sufficient indicator of liver injury”

Comments: 1- The included literatures did not show that children who had COVID-19 necessitated admission to ICU and were on ventilators or liver support machine. 2- There is no data on pathology of liver in children who had COVID-19, the available data are those on adults whom the undergone post-mortem histopathology and ultrastructure. 3- Children would have

COVID-19 and get fast recovery; the mechanism is different from adults. 4- Research on COVID-19 in children has its critical ethical issue. 5- The cited literature should be presented in detail, including duration of illness, admission to ICU, mortality. 6- Sample size of the published papers, adherence to ethical rules, type of study would be considered to evaluate the validity of the published papers. 7- The proposed hypothesis is invalid as it is not based on enough clinical data.

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 02536349

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Turkey

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-10-28

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-12-16 12:34

Reviewer performed review: 2022-12-21 05:30

Review time: 4 Days and 16 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input 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



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statements	Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This review about the pathophysiological aspects of Covid-19 on children is summarised in an understandable format. It can be published.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: Doctor, MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Reviewer_Country

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-10-28

Reviewer chosen by: Kai-Le Chang

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-01-18 17:42

Reviewer performed review: 2023-01-18 18:00

Review time: 1 Hour

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
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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

Dear the authors, Thank you for the elaborative revision and improvement of the manuscript.