



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

**Manuscript NO:** 81712

**Title:** Post-COVID-19 cholangiopathy: Current understanding and management options

**Provenance and peer review:** Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 04227304

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Israel

**Author's Country/Territory:** India

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-11-23

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-11-24 04:36

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-11-27 13:50

**Review time:** 3 Days and 9 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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 Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<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
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [ <b>Y</b> ] No
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### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Comments to authors: Thank you for the opportunity to review this interesting manuscript. The authors describe the characteristics of a rare syndrome – post COVID cholangiopathy (PCC) and their experience. The manuscript is very well written, discuss the main features of the disease and evaluate most case descriptions from the literature. After reviewing the paper, these are my comments: 1. Pathogenesis – How does the theory of direct cholangiocytes injury by the virus sits with the time of onset of more than one month after the acute infection and that the virus was not found in histological samples from these patients? Is this theory established in previous literature? 2. Pathogenesis - COVID-19 is known to cause many extra-pulmonary manifestations by an inflammatory component. I think this is another possible mechanism for PCC that should be addressed. Did any previous study address this theory? In this regard the authors should use the following paper: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00296-022-05106-3> This paper describes different extra-pulmonary involvement by the virus with a possible inflammatory mechanism. This paper can also be used as an example for extra-pulmonary involvement which is described in the introduction. 3. Clinical, Biochemical & Imaging Features – The authors describe the results of previously published research. Was a literature review performed? How were studies found? The authors should include a description for their method – search terms, databases, inclusion criteria to be included in their review, etc. 4. The study by Hunyady (citation 37) does not appear in Table 1, what is the reason? Are other studies not included in this table? 5. I recommend the authors to add the following data to Table 1: highest ventilatory support needed for each patient, vasopressor drugs, other extra-pulmonary manifestations. 6. COVID-19



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vaccination and PCC - The authors address the possible effect of the vaccines on COVID-19 related cholangiopathy. I think they should emphasize the effect of vaccinations on severe and critical disease - which ultimately leads to lower rates of PCC (that is clearly associated with critical disease and mechanical ventilation). Many articles have described this relationship and can be used as examples. I recommend the following paper which deomnstrated the major effect by the vaccinations among patients with severe COVID-19:  
<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0268050>



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<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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The authors described in a good mini- review a new emerging disease complication of COVID-19 infection: Post-COVID-19 cholangiopathy. Only four patients as the authors experience is a very small number to obtain a conclusion but it worth describing the details of these patients for such an emerging complication post covid. Proper revision for the manuscript writing is needed to correct some missed things like (N: 06.-1.2mg/dL) missing point decimal of 0.6. under the title of Clinical, Biochemical & Imaging Features. The role of steroids and anticoagulation used in management of COVID diseases and their relation to the development of PCC and its management can be added in details. Liver transplantation indication in case of PCC can be added in details under the title of Liver Transplantation for PCC. Regarding COVID-19 vaccination and PCC was there any difference regarding the type of vaccination and the PCC development? Figure legend should be added. Systematic review and meta-analysis can be considered to highlight this research point.