

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 84445

Title: Pulmonary hypertension, nephrotic syndrome, and polymyositis due to hepatitis C virus infection: A case report

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06195974

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-03-14

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-04-01 12:23

Reviewer performed review: 2023-04-01 12:56

Review time: 1 Hour

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| 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 Grade E: Do not publish |
| Novelty of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty |
| Creativity or innovation of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation |

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| Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance |
| 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 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 statements | Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous |
| | Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a nice case report describing a patient diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension, nephrotic syndrome, and polymyositis due to chronic hepatitis C infection. A multi-disciplinary recommendation was that the patient should be treated with sildenafil and macitentan in combination and methylprednisolone. During treatment autoimmune symptoms, liver function, hepatitis C RNA levels, and cardiac parameters of right heart catheterization were monitored closely. The patient showed significant improvement in 6-minute walking distance from 100 to 300 m at 3-month follow-up and pulmonary artery pressure drops to 50 mmHg. They concluded that this case further provides evidence supporting the relationship between hepatitis C infection and diverse extrahepatic manifestations, underlying that it is very rare to have pulmonary hypertension, nephrotic syndrome, and polymyositis in a single patient. They included a literature review on the management of several specific extrahepatic manifestations of hepatitis C. The case is well presented and of clinical relevance. However, to further improve the manuscript the authors should expand the relationship between HCV and autoimmunity. It is well-known that HCV may trigger extrahepatic autoimmunity as

weel summarized in a comprehensive review (HCV and autoimmunity. *Curr Pharm Des.* 2008;14(17):1678-85. doi: 10.2174/138161208784746824.). Importantly, it is well-known that HCV infection is associated to the development of serum autoantibodies, thus potentially causing problems in differential diagnosis when not properly interpreted, as previously reported (Hepatitis C and autoreactivity. *Dig Liver Dis.* 2007 Sep;39 Suppl 1:S22-4. doi: 10.1016/s1590-8658(07)80006-5).

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 00503243

Position: Editor-in-Chief

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-03-14

Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-03-31 14:41

Reviewer performed review: 2023-04-04 12:00

Review time: 3 Days and 21 Hours

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| 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 |
| Novelty of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty |
| Creativity or innovation of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation |

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| Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance |
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| Re-review | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| 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 |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors describe an unusual association of hepatitis virus C infection with three extrahepatic disorders as nephrotic syndrome, pulmonary infection and polymyositis. The manuscript is well written and interesting because such association has never been described. Virus C is often associated with extrahepatic disorders, but in the reported patient three different disorders were reported. Therapy with association of antiviral treatment and steroids resolved the complications of the disorders and the virus C negativization in a short time. Even if the association of a renal biopsy and a description of the behaviour of complement is lacking, the manuscript worth to be published due to the really unusual association of the pathologies and the rapid recovery

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03700188

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Adjunct Professor, Attending Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Brazil

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-03-14

Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-04-02 11:52

Reviewer performed review: 2023-04-07 13:15

Review time: 5 Days and 1 Hour

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| 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 |
| Novelty of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty |
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| | Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

the association between hepatitis C and autoimmune manifestations has been described for a long time, but case reports are important when faced with new combinations. The reports help us to be aware of such problems.