

ANSWERS TO REVIEWERS

Reviewer #1

Specific Comments to Authors: a comprehensive article addressing a pertinent issue

Answer: We thank the reviewer for his appreciation of our work.

Reviewer #2

Specific Comments to Authors: This study is an immediate and valuable study that meets the journal's requirements for scientificity and innovation, however there are still some comments that need to be improved: This study discusses the pathogenesis of the decline in mortality from chronic liver disease, and I hope the author can add some part to describe the association between social determinants of health and mortality from chronic liver disease.

Answer: We thank the reviewer for his appreciation of our work. In the revised manuscript, we added to the last paragraph of the section “Mortality trends before the pandemic” a sentence on the association between mortality from chronic liver disease overall – and especially alcoholic liver disease- and socioeconomic status.

Reviewer #3

Specific Comments to Authors: The outbreak of COVID-19 has brought profound impacts to the entire society and medical system, disrupting people's lives and changing the workflow of the previous medical system. This manuscript reviewed how pre-pandemic mortality from chronic liver disease varied by specific cause, cause of death, and regional epidemiology. The COVID-19 pandemic was different according to the age of chronic liver disease, the specific cause, and liver function status. In particular, cirrhosis and alcoholic liver disease were associated with a higher risk of severe illness and death. In addition, indirect factors such as harmful drinking during the pandemic and poor access to effective care also contributed to deaths from chronic liver disease. This manuscript may help us understanding the relationship between the pandemic and chronic liver disease. The reviewer allowed one point of comment and suggested a uniform reference format, such as reference 27 cited format error.

Answer: The reference 27 has been corrected. We carefully reviewed the format of all references in the revised manuscript.