



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Hepatology*

**Manuscript NO:** 79994

**Title:** Clinical characteristics and outcomes of COVID-19 in patients with autoimmune hepatitis: A population-based matched cohort study

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

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05085789

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Senior Lecturer

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

**Author's Country/Territory:** United States

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-09-13

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-09-30 08:52

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-10-10 10:28

**Review time:** 10 Days and 1 Hour

<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 Grade E: Do not publish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 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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<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
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	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

Comments to the author In the manuscript entitled “Clinical Characteristics and Outcomes of COVID-19 in Patients with Autoimmune Hepatitis: A Population-Based Matched Cohort Study”, the authors demonstrated that AIH patients are associated with an increased hospitalization risk as well as the higher mortality compared to patients without chronic liver diseases (CLD) from the diagnosis of COVID-19. In addition, they also concluded that AIH patients were not at the risk for the worse outcomes with COVID-19 than other causes of CLD. While the findings of this study are of interest and persuasion, the current study is lacking the cutting edge to be accepted for publication. To overcome this limitation, authors are recommended to modify the manuscript according to the comments which are mentioned below. 1) First of all, there were lots of miscalculation and the fact seriously undermined the credibility of this paper. For example, though authors wrote 8.8% and 11% in the main text of page 8 line 2, 8.7% and 10.9% were in the Table 1. In the line 4 and line 5, authors indicated 23.4% and 14.3%, but 23.3% and 14.2%, respectively in the Table 1. In the line 7 and line 9 of page 8, similar mistakes were seen. 2) In the second paragraph of page 9, authors used “p=<0.01” for four times. I think all of these should be corrected as “p<0.01”. 3) In the page 10 line 13, though authors wrote RR 0.93; 95% CI, 0.34-0.68, but 0.93 (0.55-1.56) in the Figure 3. I knew that there were actually some other mistakes in the table. Based on these facts, authors should have to check their manuscript, figures, tables, and all supplementary tables seriously and correct all of them. If not, resubmission should be rejected. 4) In the page 13 line 3&4, authors repeated “Finally” twice in the main text. It was quite weird. 5) In the page 5 line 12, authors wrote that all adult patients with HIV and ////.



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Why patients with HIV were collected in this study? Could you explain the reason? 6) In the methods section of the abstract, “patients 1) without chronic liver disease (CLD); 2) patients with chronic liver diseases (non-CLD) but without AIH (non-AIH CLD) control groups.” was difficult to understand. How about the followings “patients 1) without chronic liver disease (non-CLD); 2) patients with chronic liver diseases except AIH (non-AIH CLD) control groups.” 7) The last sentence of “Introduction” was also difficult to understand. Anyhow, authors need to realize that they should examine their own manuscripts more carefully before submission.



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

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 03700188

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Assistant Professor, Attending Doctor

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

**Author's Country/Territory:** United States

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**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-10-14 02:00

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<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<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
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	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**

The manuscript is well written and easy to read and to understand. But on page 6, second paragraph I think the authors confused HIV and AIH: they wrote "All adult patients (age  $\geq$ 18 years) with HIV and confirmed COVID-19 ... instead of: All adult patients (age  $\geq$ 18 years) with AIH and confirmed COVID-19...



## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05085789

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Senior Lecturer

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

**Author's Country/Territory:** United States

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**Reviewer chosen by:** Jing-Jie Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-10-27 14:02

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-10-28 09:21

**Review time:** 19 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<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>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Minor comments; In the Page 10 Line 4, “fibrinogen level P(303 vs. 436 mg/dL; P = 0.03)” will be changed to “fibrinogen level (303 vs. 436 mg/dL; P = 0.03)”. Is it correct? In the Page 10 Line 8 and 10, authors wrote the unit of bilirubin as “U/L”. I think it would be “mg/dL”. Is it correct? In the “Discussion” section (Page 11 Line 21), authors wrote “However, a lower survival probability was also noted for AIH patients.”. Why did authors choose the word “However”? Another conjunction word would be fine for readers. In the Page 12 Line1, “U.S.based” would be “U.S.-based”. Is it correct? Anyhow, authors actually did a wonderful job! Congratulations!