

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

November 24, 2014



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: Ferri et al Review for WJH REVISED Nov 24 2014.doc).

**Title: HCV syndrome: a constellation of organ- and non-organ specific autoimmune disorders, B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and cancer**

**Author:** Clodoveo Ferri, Marco Sebastiani, Dilia Giuggioli, Michele Colaci, Poupak Fallahi, Alessia Piluso, Alessandro Antonelli, Anna Linda Zignego

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 13594

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

(1) This review on HCV syndrome is interesting and well written. The authors have mainly focussed on a constellation of organ- and non-organ specific autoimmune disorders, B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and cancer. It could be useful to give some informations on HCV pathogenesis.

*We would thank the reviewer. A brief paragraph about pathogenesis has been added.*

(2) This is a well-written and exhaustive review concerning the extra-hepatic disorders induced by HCV, which testify the large experience of the Authors in the field. Only few remarks: Table 1: the association of chronic HCV infection with oral lichen planus, sialadenitis and arthritis is widely accepted since many years, as a consequence it cannot be still indicated as "possible".

Typing errors are in the article (f.i. : Bechet's syndrome and psoriasis, in Table 1) .

*The Table has been corrected.*

The production of several non-organ-specific auto-antibodies other than rheumatoid factor and cryoglobulins is increased in HCV patient, making difficult the differential diagnosis with many idiopathic autoimmune disorders. This topic should be briefly outlined.

*We agree with the reviewer. We added in the Conclusion the following sentence: "Considering the frequent clinical overlap and the presence of multiple serum autoantibodies, it is frequent very difficult to make the differential diagnosis among 'idiopathic' and HCV-associate autoimmune disorders."*

(3) The authors reviewed HCV syndrome, and summarized pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, autoimmune diseases, neoplastic disorders, and treatments. The review is well written, and is acceptable for publication.

*We would thank the reviewer.*

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Hepatology*

Sincerely yours,

*Clodoveo Ferri, MD*

Rheumatology Unit, Dpt of Internal Medicine

University of Modena and Reggio E., Policlinico di Modena

Via del Pozzo, 71, 41100 Modena, Italy

Tel +39-059-4222279; Fax +39-059-4223007; E-mail: [clferri@unimore.it](mailto:clferri@unimore.it)