



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

Manuscript NO: 75391

Title: Understanding fatigue in primary biliary cholangitis: from pathophysiology to treatment perspectives

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03197771

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Full Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Spain

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2022-01-26

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-01-26 13:36

Reviewer performed review: 2022-02-03 10:48

Review time: 7 Days and 21 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
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 type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" 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
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The Minireview “Understanding fatigue in primary biliary cholangitis: from pathophysiology to treatment perspectives” by Lynch et al. summarizes several aspects of the fatigue associated to primary biliary cholangitis (PBC). It is a well written minireview. However, to claim systematic review of the literature, the authors should follow the PRISMA guidelines (<http://prisma-statement.org/>) provide PRISMA checklist and flow diagram. Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, Shamseer L, Tetzlaff JM, Akl EA, Brennan SE, Chou R, Glanville J, Grimshaw JM, Hróbjartsson A, Lalu MM, Li T, Loder EW, Mayo-Wilson E, McDonald S, McGuinness LA, Stewart LA, Thomas J, Tricco AC, Welch VA, Whiting P, Moher D. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. *BMJ*. 2021 Mar 29;372:n71. doi: 10.1136/bmj.n71. PMID: 33782057; PMCID: PMC8005924. Readers would ask how the 1172 articles allocated in the 2 databases indicated ended up in a list of only 40 references in the paper. The different sections of the paper should be related to the searches. Pages 8 and 9, “LIFESTYLE ADJUSTMENTS AND DEVELOPING COPING MECHANISMS” section does not provide a single reference. Is this an author opinion statement? Alternatively, the authors may claim a narrative review of the literature rather than a systematic search, and thus remove the methods section. Summary tables could be more elaborated/detailed. Adding a reference column is recommended. Placing 2 references on Table 1 does not clarify what is the evidence to link terms in column 1 with those of column 2. Usually a systematic search pursues elaboration of summary tables presenting the experimental evidence available. No room for former reviews is needed. As per the structure of the article it would be interesting to



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at least mention the assessment of fatigue in the context of peripheral or central. Page 5, line 140: “pH recovery time related to fatigue severity” Verb and citation for the observation are missing Line 146, “measured with twitch interpolation” explain what it is and why is important to mention, what is the message? Page 6, line 172: “ondansetron, fluvoxamine, or fluoxetine” three treatments and just 1 citation, is this right?



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Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Emeritus Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Greece

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2022-01-26

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-01-27 20:01

Reviewer performed review: 2022-02-08 20:08

Review time: 12 Days

Scientific quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input 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
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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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
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

No comment



RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

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Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Full Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Spain

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2022-01-26

Reviewer chosen by: Li-Li Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-04-30 08:56

Reviewer performed review: 2022-04-30 10:01

Review time: 1 Hour

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
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 type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Peer-reviewer	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

The authors have addressed all previously raised concerns in the reviewed version of the manuscript. However, there are few additional considerations needing clarification before it is considered adequate for publication from this reviewer's perspective: 1. On page 5, the sentence: "Immune reactivity against the lipoylated substrate of PDC-E2 – also found in some bacteria and yeasts and mimicked by some xenobiotics – has been suggested to be the cause of PBC.." may mislead readers, as it seems to indicate "immune reactivity" is found in "bacteria and yeast" when most likely what is indicated is that PBC patients autoantibodies also recognize bacterial and yeast PDC-E2. If this assumption is right, it would be good to provide citations for this statement. Who showed this cross-reactivity exists? 2. Perhaps the subtitle for the section "FAILED THERAPEUTIC OPTIONS" should be rephrased, as the previous section describes some therapeutic options that failed to alleviate fatigue. Moreover, the subtitle may mislead readers as thinking to find therapeutic options for PBC which failed to resolve PBC. Finally, although the paper is well-written and easy to read, a final typographic review is recommended (example pag. 7 "has been measure")



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Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2022-01-26

Reviewer chosen by: Li-Li Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-04-29 15:06

Reviewer performed review: 2022-05-02 07:49

Review time: 2 Days and 16 Hours

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
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Peer-reviewer	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

I have no further comments