

## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 19050

**Title:** Hepatitis C virus prevalence and genotype distribution in Pakistan: A comprehensive review of recent data

**Reviewer's code:** 00225318

**Reviewer's country:** Spain

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2015-05-07 09:40

**Date reviewed:** 2015-08-14 11:58

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The review "Hepatitis C virus prevalence and genotype distribution in Pakistan: A comprehensive review of recent data reported by Umer Iqbal M. and M. is interesting and very useful for the scientific community. The study allows comprehensive information about the situation of HCV infection in a high prevalence area as Pakistan. However, the study has some limitations that must be resolved: 1-In the tables summarizing the various HCV prevalence studies the authors should indicate not only the type of technique used but also the particular purchaser so that readers can assess the quality and performance of each study. In the same sense the text must add a comment on the possible presence of artifacts in these studies due to the technique used. 2-There is no mention in any point of the manuscript or in the tables on methodologies used for genotyping and subtyping of patients, only a brief, but insufficient comment on the findings. It should be included in the results a comment on the methods used in different studies (LIPA sequencing?). And the tables prevalence of genotypes / subtypes the particular technique used. Keep in mind that such techniques may alter significant prevalence data. 3-should be included in the discussion comments about preventive or



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therapeutic strategies for this population., and comments about the necessity of a reference methodology for HCV subtyping

## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 19050

**Title:** Hepatitis C virus prevalence and genotype distribution in Pakistan: A comprehensive review of recent data

**Reviewer's code:** 02943442

**Reviewer's country:** Pakistan

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2015-05-07 09:40

**Date reviewed:** 2015-08-25 17:50

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript by Umer M. and Iqbal M reviewed the data regarding HCV prevalence in Pakistan. The review covered an important issue of HCV in Pakistan region. Pakistan has very high burden of disease and it is necessary to keep the knowledge update about its prevalence. The authors review the available information nicely and presented in an efficient manner. However I notice the missing of a recent article from Islamabad on HCV genotyping by Afzal et al. published in WJG 2014 Dec 14;20(46):17690-2. doi: 10.3748/wjg.v20.i46.17690. I recommend authors to search any other missing report. This article will be helpful for the readers and I recommend the publication of this article in WJG after minor revision. Minor revision: 1. Inclusion of study by Afzal et al. published in WJG 2014 Dec 14;20(46):17690-2. doi: 10.3748/wjg.v20.i46.17690 and its discussion in context with untypable HCV genotypes prevalent in Pakistan. 2. An extensive search of any other available report on the topic so the manuscript will include all available information.

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**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 19050

**Title:** Hepatitis C virus prevalence and genotype distribution in Pakistan: A comprehensive review of recent data

**Reviewer's code:** 00030389

**Reviewer's country:** Japan

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

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**Date reviewed:** 2015-08-28 10:56

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors reviewed recent 83 studies on HCV infection in Pakistan. The review is done in a good manner and the readers can acquire the appropriate information. I have only minor comments. Minor comments: Page 2, line 5. "84" should be "83", which is the actual number of studies which were reviewed. Page 11, HCV seroprevalence in blood donor. It should be mentioned whether HCV screening tests is routinely done in Pakistan.

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**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 19050

**Title:** Hepatitis C virus prevalence and genotype distribution in Pakistan: A comprehensive review of recent data

**Reviewer's code:** 02528523

**Reviewer's country:** Mexico

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2015-05-07 09:40

**Date reviewed:** 2015-08-31 04:07

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
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		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors made an interesting and exhaustive searching and analysis of HCV prevalence in Pakistan. This study is well discussed and contextualized in a general manner. However the main question is the mathematical analysis to obtain the values of prevalence. I recommend present the formulas and the values of main variables used to calculate the weighted means. Other comments: Page 4, paragraph 2, flaviviridae must be capitalized. About the prevalence values in health care workers, are similar to the open or asymptomatic population?, please comment. The abbreviation IDUs (page 13, paragraph 2) was not previously presented. Although ICT, ELISA and other abbreviations are mentioned in the text, I suggest a brief list below the Tables. CMIA is not previously mentioned. Figure 3, the colors of G1 and G3 are very similar and may be confused.