

**ESPS Peer-review Report**
**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Hepatology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 9511

**Title:** VERTICAL HEPATITIS C VIRUS TRANSMISSION: MAIN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Reviewer code:** 02539433

**Science editor:** Ling-Ling Wen

**Date sent for review:** 2014-02-15 23:32

**Date reviewed:** 2014-03-06 00:32

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	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"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

**COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Dear Author, This is a useful review especially for clinicians, but I believe that prior its publication you should seriously revise the language as there are many grammar mistakes throughout the manuscript. The review focuses on the clinical aspects of HCV vertical transmission and I believe that you could go in more depth into the immune responses involved in the process. Given the crucial role of NK cells in acute HCV infection (Khakoo et al. Science. 2004; 305: 872-4) it is important to describe their role in maternal HCV infection. It would help if you give a brief description of the course of acute and chronic hepatitis outside pregnancy in the introduction. I think it would be clearer for the reader if question 1 and 2 was addressed separately. Answering question 1, can also include the association with maternal ALT levels and HCV specific T cell responses. In page 9, the footnote regarding animal models is extremely detailed. I would suggest discussing in the manuscript that animal studies using rhesus monkeys showed that Peg-IFN treatment associated with infertility indicating that IFN may have an abortifacient potential in humans. The same applies for the other footnotes. For your consideration you can take a look in the following papers: Le Cambion et al. Viruses 2012; 4: 3531-50, Hurtado et al., PloS one; 2010; 5: e12232, Khakoo et al. Science. 2004; 305: 872-4, Mock et al., Arc Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed. 2005; 90: F156 – 160.

# ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 9511

**Title:** VERTICAL HEPATITIS C VIRUS TRANSMISSION: MAIN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Reviewer code:** 00012386

**Science editor:** Ling-Ling Wen

**Date sent for review:** 2014-02-15 23:32

**Date reviewed:** 2014-03-23 08:21

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<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"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

# COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Grazia et al. reviewed about the vertical transmission of HCV. This is well written and an important field in this area. 1. Authors should write the abstract. 2. In Introduction section, page 2, line 8, HCV infection can cause chronic hepatitis, liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in many patients; in addition,..... 3. In Introduction section, page 2, line 24 .....guarantee a viral clearance (also called sustained virologic response) in a remarkable percentage of patients,..... 4. Authors should change from "HCV-RNA" to "HCV RNA". 5. In page 4, line 29, .....factors (i. e., alcohol intake, tobacco smoking and drug abuse), the available data seem to indicate an 6. In page 6, line 8, ..... alleles and lastly IL28B genotype[21, 57, 60-62], but their role is poorly understood. Also the..... 7. In page 6, lines 16-17, .....along with increased levels of viral load over 105 IU/ml[57,64], reaching the highest value in the women who have viraemia levels above 107 IU/ml[65]. Another..... 8. Please uniform from interleukin 28B polymorphisms, and polymorphisms of IL-28B, into IL28B genotype. 9. In page 9, line 7, .....in addition about 1.3% of women became pregnant during a..... 10. Authors should refer the following article and give comment in Discussion section. Tsunoda T, Inui A, Kawamoto M, Sogo T, Komatsu H, Fujisawa T.Effects of pegylated interferon-α-2a monotherapy on growth in Japanese children with chronic hepatitis C. Hepatol Res. 2014 Mar;44(3):251-8. 11. The vertical transmission rate of HCV was 6.2% in a cohort study of 1,787 mother-child pairs, and cesarean section was not protective [a]. This was also confirmed in a meta-analysis [b]. [a] European Paediatric Hepatitis C Virus Network. A significant sex—but not elective cesarean section—effect on mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis C virus infection. J Infect Dis 2005;192:1872-1879. [b] Ghamar Chehreh ME, Tabatabaei SV, Khazanehdari S,



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Alavian SM. Effect of cesarean section on the risk of perinatal transmission of hepatitis C virus from HCV-RNA+/HIV- mothers: a meta-analysis. Arch Gynecol Obstet 2011;283:255-260. Authors should comment on these results.

**ESPS Peer-review Report**

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 9511

**Title:** VERTICAL HEPATITIS C VIRUS TRANSMISSION: MAIN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Reviewer code:** 00051373

**Science editor:** Ling-Ling Wen

**Date sent for review:** 2014-02-15 23:32

**Date reviewed:** 2014-03-24 22:16

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<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"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

**COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

According to our opinion, this review would be added very useful and promising information about the vertical hepatitis C transmission in these days. I believe this article should be accepted without any revision. Best regards.

**ESPS Peer-review Report****Name of Journal:** World Journal of Hepatology**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 9511**Title:** VERTICAL HEPATITIS C VIRUS TRANSMISSION: MAIN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**Reviewer code:** 01221188**Science editor:** Ling-Ling Wen**Date sent for review:** 2014-02-15 23:32**Date reviewed:** 2014-03-31 06:59

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<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"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

**COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Tosone et al is writing the review focusing on Hep C vertical transmission. This review is well described and very interesting. No major revision is required. Minor revision In page 6, UI/ml should be changed to IU/mL?

# ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 9511

**Title:** VERTICAL HEPATITIS C VIRUS TRANSMISSION: MAIN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Reviewer code:** 00058438

**Science editor:** Ling-Ling Wen

**Date sent for review:** 2014-02-15 23:32

**Date reviewed:** 2014-03-31 09:09

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	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"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Major concerns: This is a useful review in clinical practice for childbearing women, but this topic has recently been reviewed in several SCI journals, even on the WJG(WJG 2013 Oct 28;19(40):6714-20).

Minor concerns: 1. Redundant and not-essential text statements and references. 2. Lacking of useful Tables in this manuscript. 3. There are many mistakes in English writing.