



**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 54622

**Title:** Gilbert’s syndrome coexisting with hereditary spherocytosis might not be rare: Six case reports

**Reviewer’s code:** 03477174

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer’s Country/Territory:** Turkey

**Author’s Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-02-10

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-02-11 09:40

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-02-14 06:18

**Review time:** 2 Days and 20 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer’s expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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

The authors should give bilirubin value in cases 1 and 2. There are many grammatical errors in the article.

#### **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

##### *Google Search:*

- The same title
- Duplicate publication
- Plagiarism
- No

##### *BPG Search:*

- The same title
- Duplicate publication
- Plagiarism
- No



**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 54622

**Title:** Gilbert’s syndrome coexisting with hereditary spherocytosis might not be rare: Six case reports

**Reviewer’s code:** 01214546

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Chief Doctor, Professor

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

**Author’s Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-02-10

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-02-11 00:23

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-02-20 01:16

**Review time:** 9 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer’s expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Reviewer's comments In this study, the authors reported six cases with combined disorders of Gilbert syndrome (GS) and hereditary spherocytosis (HS) diagnosed using CO breath test for erythrocyte (RBC) lifespan determination and genetic tests. Levitt's breath test was introduced as a useful diagnostic tool to evaluate the coexistence of GS and HS. There have been some case reports regarding the coexistence of GS and HS, and the possibility of this condition should be considered in cases of hemolytic anemia with unconjugated hyperbilirubinemia. To the best of our knowledge, there have been no reports on the evaluation of RBC lifespan using CO breath test to diagnose the coexistence of GS and HS. In my view, the authors' work is a useful addition to the literature on this topic. However, I have the following concerns regarding the contents of the manuscript: General: 1. From the individual prevalence rates (GS, 3-10%; HS, 1 per 2,000 persons), the calculated rate of coexistence of GS and HS is 15 to 35 per million births. However, HS can be masked in patients with GS owing to the high prevalence rates and similar symptoms of GS and HS. I agree with the authors' opinion that there are a large number of overlooked cases owing to the lack of awareness and techniques. There must be several more cases of coexistence of GS and HS than those actually diagnosed. However, the authors describe in the title that the coexistence of GS and HS is not rare. It seems to be too early to assert that it is not rare, because the authors encountered 6 patients (4 patients in real cases because 2 family cases were included) for only 6 months. It is possible that no case has been encountered before this period and none will be encountered in the coming years. Statistical evaluations are required to demonstrate that the coexistence of GS and HS is not rare. 2. The authors described that Levitt's CO breath test was useful for the measurement of RBC lifespan to screen for the coexistence of GS and HS among patients with GS. However, although GS is not



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associated with overt evidence of hemolysis, a shortened RBC lifespan has been found in some affected individuals (reference: for example, Powell LW et al. *Australas Ann Med* 1967;16:221-225; Kang LL (author). *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2020;99:e19109). In my literature review, the CO breath test shows shortening of RBC lifespan in cases of hyperbilirubinemia by hemolysis and is useful for diagnosing hemolytic jaundice. However, it is necessary to establish the cut-off value of RBC lifespan, which distinguishes between simple GS and coexistence of GS and HS, to demonstrate that the CO breath test approach is a reliable screening tool to evaluate a patient with HS and GS.

**Abstract:** According to the guidelines of *World Journal of Clinical Cases*, the abstract should be structured, and the subsections should include Background, Case summary, and Conclusion.

**Case presentation:** 1. The description of the subsection of cases one and two is too long. 2. In the subsection of cases one and two, there are two incomprehensible descriptions; “hepatocellular injury and cholestasis, i.e. Isolated unconjugated hyperbilirubinemia” and “the average RBC lifespan of ~120 days (normal range: 70~140 days).” Please modify them for clarity.

**References:** The method of describing the number of reference citations in the main text and the description of the references in the reference section should follow the guidelines of the *World Journal of Clinical Cases*.

**Minor:** In the main text, several expressions are unsuitable for a scientific article. Please modify the phrases, “Taking his history, we learned ... told needless of any treatments” (page 4, line 1), “CO breath test, which was serviced in our Gastroenterology” (page 6, line 18), “To the doctor’s surprise” (page 6, line 21), and “To our great surprise, there is still a few smart doctors...” (page 11, line 9).

## **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

### ***Google Search:***

[ ] The same title



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