

## ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 7794

**Title:** Risk factors of liver-related mortality in chronic hepatitis C patients: a deceased case-living control study

**Reviewer code:** 02456596

**Science editor:** Wen, Ling-Ling

**Date sent for review:** 2013-11-30 21:32

**Date reviewed:** 2013-12-09 21:30

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 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

This paper investigated Risk factors of liver-related mortality in chronic hepatitis C patients: a deceased case-living control study. The results suggested that interferon- $\alpha$  treatment, the stage at the initial diagnosis and comorbidities are all independent risk factors for liver-related HCV mortality. However, there are a few defects need to be modified. 1. The authors should elucidate the case number of CHC, compensated liver cirrhosis, decompensated liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in 8250 inpatients chronically infected with HCV. 2. The authors should illustrate the inclusion and exclusion criteria of conditional logistic regression analysis in the Statistical analysis of SUBJECTS AND METHODS, and give the regression coefficient in Table 3. 3. The HBcAb in manuscript should be anti-HBc.

## ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 7794

**Title:** Risk factors of liver-related mortality in chronic hepatitis C patients: a deceased case-living control study

**Reviewer code:** 02527647

**Science editor:** Wen, Ling-Ling

**Date sent for review:** 2013-11-30 21:32

**Date reviewed:** 2013-12-18 16:34

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors investigated a large number of HCC patients using the hospital clinical database. The results indicated that interferon- $\alpha$  treatment, the stage at the initial diagnosis and comorbidities are all independent risk factors for liver-related HCV mortality. The most outstanding is the big size sample. The authors already revised the paper according to the first reviewer. But, at the interferon therapy part, the authors should illustrate the influence of SVR or not SVR, cause it is well known, SVR is a key point for CHC prognosis.

## ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 7794

**Title:** Risk factors of liver-related mortality in chronic hepatitis C patients: a deceased case-living control study

**Reviewer code:** 02861277

**Science editor:** Wen, Ling-Ling

**Date sent for review:** 2013-11-30 21:32

**Date reviewed:** 2013-12-18 19:04

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 type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input checked="" 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

Zeng QL and colleagues reported an interesting deceased case-living control study concerning hepatitis C virus-related mortality. The authors found that initial diagnostic stage of disease, alcohol consumption, diabetes and other comorbidities are independent risk factors for liver-related mortality while antiviral therapy is able to decrease mortality rate in CHC patients. I believe that several points should be clarified and discussed. The authors compared two groups of patients with a different liver disease severity (Table 3), the case group, as compared to the control, had an advanced liver disease (higher percentage of liver fibrosis and hepatocellular carcinoma) thus as expected shown an earlier and higher mortality rate. The authors did not mention and analyze factors affecting antiviral treatment efficacy for instance HCV genotype 1, 2..., IL28B polymorphisms, insulin resistance also without diabetes. HCV RNA was undetermined in about 17% of the patients and the authors did not describe the presence of anti-HCV antibodies. Alcohol consumption should be quantified to distinguish between heavy drinkers, moderate and so on.

## ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 7794

**Title:** Risk factors of liver-related mortality in chronic hepatitis C patients: a deceased case-living control study

**Reviewer code:** 02860577

**Science editor:** Wen, Ling-Ling

**Date sent for review:** 2013-11-30 21:32

**Date reviewed:** 2013-12-22 14:52

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)	<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

Excellent study but some parts are vague and needs more elaboration. Kindly refer to the reviewed manuscript.