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Flat C, 23/F., Lucky Plaza,  
315-321 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, China

### ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5725

**Title:** Epidemiology and Natural History of Hepatitis C Virus Infection

**Reviewer code:** 00503404

**Science editor:** Gou, Su-Xin

**Date sent for review:** 2013-09-25 10:30

**Date reviewed:** 2013-09-26 06:28

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

A comprehensive review, on the natural history and epidemiology of HCV infection. Comments; 1. The only major comment is that authors should include 2 tables, one on the development (rate/frequency) of cirrhosis and the other on the frequency of HCC after 5-, 10 and 15-years of follow up in the different studies, please also include early cohort characteristics, such as Child/MELD score at entry of follow-up where available. 2. The paper could benefit from proofreading by native speaker. 3. Are permissions available to reproduce the figures for the REVEAL study, if so please add this where appropriate.



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### ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5725

**Title:** Epidemiology and Natural History of Hepatitis C Virus Infection

**Reviewer code:** 00183459

**Science editor:** Gou, Su-Xin

**Date sent for review:** 2013-09-25 10:30

**Date reviewed:** 2013-10-01 16:52

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a review article on epidemiology and natural history of HCV infection. The review is very well written and summarizes current knowledge on this topic.

## ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5725

**Title:** Epidemiology and Natural History of Hepatitis C Virus Infection

**Reviewer code:** 00058444

**Science editor:** Gou, Su-Xin

**Date sent for review:** 2013-09-25 10:30

**Date reviewed:** 2013-10-04 12:13

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this manuscript, the authors tried to review the epidemiology and natural history of HCV Infection. However, many of the references are too old. In addition, the collection of references is not so comprehensive. The manuscript is just like a summation of the 3 articles published by the authors (Ref 58, 59, 61). Comments 1. In the Abstract and the 2 Paragraph of Page 3, the authors stated that "Hepatitis C virus (HCV) affects at least 170 million people worldwide and 250,000 people died from HCV related diseases per year." However, according to recent report by WHO, about 150 million people are chronically infected with hepatitis C virus, and more than 350 000 people die every year from hepatitis C-related liver diseases (<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs164/en/>). 2. Many of the cited references are too old and the collection of references is not so comprehensive. For example, the authors cited a data from a hyper-endemic village in Japan (23% of anti-HCV positivity, Table1 and Ref. 14) to represent the prevalence of HCV infection in Japan. The authors should cited new community data especially from recent studies of Asian countries. Therefore, the Section of "Prevalence of HCV Infection" should be re-written. 3. The epidemiology of HCV genotype distributions should be included in every review article regarding the epidemiology of HCV infection. The authors should add this part into the manuscript. 4. The Sections related to the "R.E.V.E.A.L.-HCV Study" are too redundant. The data of "R.E.V.E.A.L.-HCV Study" should be separated to each Section of the epidemiology, risk factors and natural history of HCV infection. This manuscript is a review article, not an original article. 5. The authors should cite more Asian articles for the comparison with the "R.E.V.E.A.L.-HCV Study". 6. The composition style of this manuscript is like the Discussion



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Section of original articles. This manuscript should be re-written according to the format of review articles.

**ESPS Peer-review Report**

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5725

**Title:** Epidemiology and Natural History of Hepatitis C Virus Infection

**Reviewer code:** 00058348

**Science editor:** Gou, Su-Xin

**Date sent for review:** 2013-09-25 10:30

**Date reviewed:** 2013-10-09 11:30

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 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**

This review article by Lee et al. attempted to describe the epidemiology and natural history of HCV infection. However, I cannot see any updated data on the topic except that the authors presented some data derived from their R.E.V.E.A.L. study, which have been published in a number of good journals. Major comments: 1. As mentioned in my general comments, this review does not provide new data as it is written. However, it could be more interesting if the authors focus the review on their R.E.V.E.A.L. study, with some unpublished new data. If so, the title needs to be modified accordingly. 2. Headings and subheadings should be used appropriately. 3. The manuscript needs extensive English editing for grammar, especially the use of verbs and tense.



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### ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5725

**Title:** Epidemiology and Natural History of Hepatitis C Virus Infection

**Reviewer code:** 00051373

**Science editor:** Gou, Su-Xin

**Date sent for review:** 2013-09-25 10:30

**Date reviewed:** 2014-01-25 17:08

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

This is an well designed and well written minireviews which may be interesting for hepatologists and other clinicians. For this reason, I recommend this paper for publication in World Journal of Gastroenterology. However, I suggest to revise a writing error at the title of the section 3: Risk Factors for HCV (HIV) Infection. After this correction, your paper will be worthy of publication without reservations.

**ESPS Peer-review Report**

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5725

**Title:** Epidemiology and Natural History of Hepatitis C Virus Infection

**Reviewer code:** 00053485

**Science editor:** Gou, Su-Xin

**Date sent for review:** 2013-09-25 10:30

**Date reviewed:** 2014-01-26 00:18

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 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 checked="" 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**

In this report, Mei-Hsuan Lee et al. reviewed epidemiology and natural history of hepatitis C virus infection. Although the authors well summarized the topic, this review article will be more attractive by adding some recent topics. Major comments 1. Environmental factors including insulin resistance and steatosis affect natural history of HCV-infected patients. This topic is better to be described by citing following papers (Gastroenterology. 2004;126:840-8., Am J Pathol. 2004;165:1499-508., J Hepatol. 2005;42:41-6. , Gut. 2005;54:533-9. etc.). 2. A viral factor such as amino acid substitutions in the hepatitis C virus core region is an important factor for natural history of HCV-infected patients. This topic is also better to be added in the text by citing following papers (J Hepatol. 2007;46:403-10., Hepatology. 2007;46:1357-64., Hepatology. 2010;52:421-9., Hepatology. 2012;56:2134-41. etc.). 3. Effect of genetic variation in interleukin 28B on hepatocarcinogenesis is a recent topic. One would be interested in the authors' opinion on the issue. Minor comment 1. This review will become more attractive by adding schemes for epidemiology and natural history of hepatitis C virus infection.