

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 79988

**Title:** Relation between COVID-19 with liver diseases and its impact on healthcare systems: The Portuguese case

**Provenance and peer review:** Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 06364911

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Bangladesh

**Author's Country/Territory:** Portugal

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-09-13

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-09-16 17:51

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-09-28 05:01

**Review time:** 11 Days and 11 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] No

## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Comments File Attached.

Comments to the author:

Thanks goes to author for addressing very important issue. I think this could be helpful for policy makers to understand how covid can hamper liver. Therefore, this work can be helpful not only for covid but also for any future pandemic.

Abstract:

results section-there is no information regarding liver injury and covid.

The author mentioned liver damage represents a risk factor that worsens in patients with COVID - 19. However, it is not completely proved by the report the author provided, therefore, I suggest to make it hypothesis.

Introduction:

“These symptoms may be aggravated by preexisting health conditions or comorbidities, which have been addressed in studies on the clinical characteristics and outcomes of COVID-19-infected patients [2-4] published since the official declaration of the pandemic outbreak of COVID-19 on March 11, 2020 [5]”.

Author cited reference 2-4, please cite other paper published in 2022.

“However, to date and to the best of our knowledge, only one study has been published with a review of the impact of COVID-19 on the liver in the Portuguese population since

2020 [14]. Therefore, in this study, by reviewing the available research, we aimed to identify.....”

You performed this study only because of one study available? Justify your study with other statement like .....what their findings? Whats the gap that your intends to fill that up in the present study?. I recommend to revise it.

What is the application of your work? And/or mention who will be benefitted from this study? You must mention that at the end of the introduction.

Overall, very weak story making in the introduction. Please rewrite it. Please mention that what was obtained by other authors or researcher (at least two), what’s the gap? Why you have performed this review and who will be benefited from your study.

Eligibility criteria

All the studies assessed in this review comply with the following inclusion criteria established beforehand by the authors: (a) studies reporting original research published in Portuguese or English, (b) targeting the Portuguese adult population (Please mention age??) (c) from any period since the official diagnosis of the first case of COVID-19 in Portugal, on March 2, 2020 [15] (d) reporting any liver-associated clinical manifestation or outcome.

Author targeting the Portuguese adult population, how about their age?

There are many unnecessary sections all throughout the manuscripts. This should be eliminated and should present in a concise way.

COVID-19, HEALTH CARE AND CLINICAL PRACTICE IN PORTUGAL

“COVID-19 has greatly affected the Portuguese population's life, modifying consumption habits [21] and lifestyle”.

Consumption habits also related to lifestyle, so revise it.

In Portugal, the National Health Service also enforced the suspension of all elective and non-urgent health care

Provide reference for it.

A Portuguese study by [22] investigated .....

Revise it and use proper way of telling that..... "A Portuguese study by [22] investigated" I think better if you mention author name.

#### COVID-19 AND LIVER DISEASES

Data have suggested that preexisting liver disease was associated with worse outcomes in patients with COVID-19. In a study of 2780 patients with COVID-19, patients with CLD (n = 250) had higher rates of mortality as compared with those without liver disease (12 versus 4 percent; risk ratio [RR] 2.8, 95% CI 1.9-4.0) [39, 40].

There are some other study from the other parts of the world. Please cite the following article and few others which also reported hepatic disorder induced covid severity and hospitalization.

(<https://ijhs.org.sa/index.php/journal/article/view/6290>)

You must prepare a scheme how covid affected if patients had preexisting liver disease and/or the possible mechanism how covid can/may harm liver, without any scheme, this work will not impacted.

#### DISCUSSION

"We aimed to review the clinical manifestations and outcomes of Portuguese patients with COVID-19 and liver injury. We began with a search using the software Publish or Perish [16] to survey the databases PubMed, Scopus, CrooRef, Google Scholar, and Web of Science, using previously established keywords. Several papers were found and screened according to the inclusion criteria. However, only 6 studies reported original observational and retrospective research on the Portuguese adult population concerning liver-associated clinical manifestations or outcomes and COVID-19".

This section Repeated. Make it short.

## Conclusion

What is the future perspective of this review? How and what the other researcher will address regarding your findings in future, after synthesizing your results, you must mention that in the conclusion.

I think this work has few limitations. I suggest to mention the limitation of this study such as very few literature reviewed, not much clinical data available, not much data on recovery duration related to liver diseases if infected by covid, sometimes geographical and/or specific community population with different underlying medical condition may affect differently. Therefore, future study is warranted.

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**Review time:** 8 Days and 3 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
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<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y ] Anonymous [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y ] No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This review manuscript addresses the impact that COVID-19 has had on the healthcare system, how COVID-19 affects the liver, and the literature on COVID-19 liver-associated damage in Portugal. The manuscript is well-written, and it is easy to follow. In general terms my concern is that the manuscript's title and abstract discuss focus on Portugal, while the manuscript itself has a small section about portugal. As a reader, if I were to read the title and abstract of this manuscript, I would be missguided to expect a manuscript that discusses Portugal and COVID-19 related liver damage, when in turn, most of the manuscript is either not about liver (general impact of covid in health care services) nor about portugal (general association between liver damage and covid). Therefore, I suggest adapting the title and the abstract to reflect the manuscript. Similarly, in general terms, the authors use infected and patient interchangeably without describing whether the patient is in the community or hospitalized. Please clarify on each statement or in general, whether the manuscript focuses more on community rather than hospital patients. (NB, this is done in many sections of the manuscript already).

Abstract: "Despite not being among the most frequent comorbidities, liver injury is common in COVID-19-infected patients" Is it more common than non-infected? "To identify and discuss the incidence of preexisting liver-associated diseases and liver injuries induced by COVID-19 in Portuguese patients infected with SARS-CoV-2." Community or hosp patients? "Portugal was one of the many countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. All elective and non-urgent health care were suspended, and the primary health services were also affected, which caused an impact on the waiting lists for hospital medical specialties, an increase in telemedicine, and a reduction in medical





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observations." Are these the results of the review or a simple observation? This is applicable to any other country in Europe. "COVID - 19 combined with liver injury is common, and liver damage represents a risk factor that worsens in patients with COVID - 19" Again, community vs hosp. Liver injury is a risk factor for what? And what worsens? COVID's prognosis? Introduction "In addition, despite not being among the most frequent comorbidities, the pathologies associated with the liver are hardly ever missing from the list of preexisting health conditions in COVID-19-infected patients" Patients as hosp? Search strategy and selection of studies "First, the authors discussed the keywords to be used in the search, agreeing upon the following string and operators: ["Portugal" or "Portuguese patients" AND "COVID" OR "SARS-CoV-2" OR "coronavirus" AND "liver" or "hepatic condition" OR "chronic hepatitis" AND "clinical manifestations" OR "outcomes" AND "COVID-19 treatment"] to be found either in the titles, abstracts, or keywords of the articles." It is unclear if these were the search terms of the engine or the screening criteria. The confusing part is the last sentence. "A two-stage approach was used to assess the retrieved studies. First, only the titles and abstracts were scanned to determine eligibility according to the research objective and criteria. Second, the full texts of the selected papers were read and thoroughly analyzed."

State whether it was done by one reviewer or two The "COVID-19, HEALTH CARE AND CLINICAL PRACTICE IN PORTUGAL" section is not related to the aim of this study, again, consider broadening the aim of the study or delete it. Same of "COVID-19 and liver disease" section. Discussion Some of the citations in the discussion are in a different format. A limitations section should be included.