

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

Manuscript NO: 78259

Title: Liver Chemistries in Patients with Severe or Non-severe COVID-19: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05835740

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: BSc, MD, MSc

Professional title: Academic Fellow, Doctor, Instructor, Research Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Greece

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-07-03

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-08-09 07:58

Reviewer performed review: 2022-08-17 20:12

Review time: 8 Days and 12 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 Grade E: Do not publish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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

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

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Generally, you have presented and analyzed a very interesting meta-analysis, very well hypothesis driven. Here are some specific remarks to improve the whole presentation and the content of your manuscript. You should replace everywhere in your manuscript the abbreviation for the liver biochemical marker: alkaline phosphatase (AKP) with the more suitable abbreviation (ALP). At page 8. of your manuscript, at the "Data extraction" section, can you provide the relevant literature for the following paragraph: "Severe disease was defined according to the American Thoracic Society and Infectious Disease Society of America guidelines for community-acquired pneumonia, and the guidelines for diagnosis and management of COVID-19 released by National Health Commission of China, need of intensive care unit (ICU) admission, mechanical ventilation." If it is possible, you can select all of your text manuscript in full alignment. It would be useful if you could add a table with the 3 categories of the biochemical liver markers that you analyzed and the mean reference values of each one biochemical marker, according the 57 studies included in your meta-analysis. Moreover, at the Introduction section can you add few data about the relevant studies that you refer to them at this sentence: "In fact, several studies have found liver injury in patients with COVID-19.[9-13]" ? Finally, you have to present more clearly and in bigger size and more clearly and distinctly the figures 1-5, as exactly you have done it in your supplementary data, in order to improve the presentation and the structure of these results. Congratulations for your work!!!

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03479389

Position: Associate Editor

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor, Director

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-07-03

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-08-25 09:19

Reviewer performed review: 2022-08-25 09:36

Review time: 1 Hour

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



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

When do the articles assess liver function in COVID-19 infection? At the onset or severity of COVID-19? Results may vary depending on the timing of assessment.

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Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 02536339

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: India

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-07-03

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-09-19 09:06

Reviewer performed review: 2022-09-24 19:03

Review time: 5 Days and 9 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
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Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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

The authors did make an attempt the post COVID scenario which is relevant. The paper can be published after making few changes in the manuscript. The authors are advised to check grammar and typos

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06109343

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Egypt

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-07-03

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-09-15 23:40

Reviewer performed review: 2022-09-25 13:40

Review time: 9 Days and 14 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
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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Anonymous [<input type="checkbox"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Comments The normal levels of ALT and AST were not written in the abstract, so we can not recognize whether the reported values are normal or high. Were the upper limits of normal were the same in all extracted articles? The definition of non-severe and severe COVID was not mentioned. The liver chemistries were measured in only one occasion, but its serial follow up assessment with COVID disease progression was not mentioned.