

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Hepatology*

**Manuscript NO:** 79991

**Title:** Acute-On-Chronic Liver Failure in Patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 Infection

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

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05257465

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MS

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

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

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

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

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-09-26 01:37

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-10-05 01:27

**Review time:** 8 Days and 23 Hours

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|--------------------|---|
| Scientific quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good<br><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 Grade E: Do not publish            |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<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection |
| Conclusion         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input 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<br/>statements</b> | Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="radio"/> ] Onymous<br>Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] No |
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## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

1 Title. Does the title reflect the main subject/hypothesis of the manuscript? Good 2 Abstract. Does the abstract summarize and reflect the work described in the manuscript? N/A 3 Key words. Do the key words reflect the focus of the manuscript? N/A 4 Background. Does the manuscript adequately describe the background, present status and significance of the study? Yes 5 Methods. Does the manuscript describe methods (e.g., experiments, data analysis, surveys, and clinical trials, etc.) in adequate detail? N/A 6 Results. Are the research objectives achieved by the experiments used in this study? What are the contributions that the study has made for research progress in this field? Good, the authors gave a detailed summary from many aspects including pathophysiology, the mechanisms of virus on the liver cells, and so on. A summary of these results is helpful in understanding the virus-induced liver disease. 7 Discussion. Does the manuscript interpret the findings adequately and appropriately, highlighting the key points concisely, clearly and logically? Are the findings and their applicability/relevance to the literature stated in a clear and definite manner? Is the discussion accurate and does it discuss the paper's scientific significance and/or relevance to clinical practice sufficiently? Good. 8 Illustrations and tables. Are the figures, diagrams and tables sufficient, good quality and appropriately illustrative of the paper contents? Do figures require labeling with arrows, asterisks etc., better legends? Good. 9 Biostatistics. Does the manuscript meet the requirements of biostatistics? N/A 10 Units. Does the manuscript meet the requirements of use of SI units? Yes. 11 References. Does the manuscript cite appropriately the latest, important and authoritative references in the introduction and discussion sections? Does the author self-cite, omit, incorrectly cite



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and/or over-cite references? Yes 12 Quality of manuscript organization and presentation. Is the manuscript well, concisely and coherently organized and presented? Is the style, language and grammar accurate and appropriate? Yes. 13 Research methods and reporting. Authors should have prepared their manuscripts according to manuscript type and the appropriate categories, as follows: (1) CARE Checklist (2013) - Case report; (2) CONSORT 2010 Statement - Clinical Trials study, Prospective study, Randomized Controlled trial, Randomized Clinical trial; (3) PRISMA 2009 Checklist - Evidence-Based Medicine, Systematic review, Meta-Analysis; (4) STROBE Statement - Case Control study, Observational study, Retrospective Cohort study; and (5) The ARRIVE Guidelines - Basic study. Did the author prepare the manuscript according to the appropriate research methods and reporting? Yes. 14 Ethics statements. For all manuscripts involving human studies and/or animal experiments, author(s) must submit the related formal ethics documents that were reviewed and approved by their local ethical review committee. Did the manuscript meet the requirements of ethics? N/A

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 06198240

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

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

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

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

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-10-07 14:40

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-10-15 09:08

**Review time:** 7 Days and 18 Hours

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|--------------------|---|
| Scientific quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good<br><input checked="" 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<br><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)<br><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<br/>statements</b> | Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="radio"/> ] Onymous<br>Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] No |
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## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript by Liptak et al provides an in depth analysis to the impact of the SARS-CoV-2 virus on liver pathologies, most notably ACLF. While comprehensive and well in-depth in explaining the links between ACLF and COVID, the manuscript would benefit from a more focused approach to the issue at hand which was not clear in the lengthy introduction. This paper could potentially be beneficial to the journal if the following links could be made:

1. Most of the introduction could be better placed in the discussion segments (including the comparisons to other viruses). The thesis of the paper was not fully clear until the tail end of the long paragraph.
2. The link between understanding the pathophysiological mechanisms of COVID virus leading to better management was stated but not substantiated clinically. This paper could potentially benefit from the elaboration on the possible avenues to explore whereby the pathophysiology of COVID (versus other viruses) could help to improve outcomes for ACLF.
3. An excellent pictorial representation of the viral impact on the liver was presented.
4. The table describing the definitions of ACLF seem rather incompatible with the focus of the paper and should be revised to correlate with how this might impact the management of COVID-induced ACLF. Else, a different table highlighting the impact of the 4 mentioned pathophysiological thesis could be considered.
5. Finally, the structure of the paper does not seem to be in line with the current recommended formatting of the World J.

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 06198240

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

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

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

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

**Reviewer chosen by:** Ji-Hong Liu

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-11-08 13:43

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-11-09 04:03

**Review time:** 14 Hours

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| <b>Scientific quality</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish            |
| <b>Language quality</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection |
| <b>Conclusion</b>         | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection             |
| <b>Peer-reviewer</b>      | Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous   |



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

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

Thank you for reviewing the comments sent. The paper now presents much more clinical impact and should be considered for publication.