

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

Manuscript NO: 90426

Title: Is there a need for universal double reflex testing of HBsAg-positive individuals for hepatitis D infection?

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05238706

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: FEBG, FRS, MSc, MSN

Professional title: Academic Editor, Doctor, MSN, Research Assistant, Statistician, Teacher, Technician

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Iran

Author's Country/Territory: Pakistan

Manuscript submission date: 2023-12-03

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-12-04 16:38

Reviewer performed review: 2023-12-04 16:43

Review time: 1 Hour

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| 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 Grade E: Do not publish |
| Novelty of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty |

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| Creativity or innovation of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation |
| Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance |
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <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 |
| Peer-reviewer statements | Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous |
| | Conflicts-of-Interest: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

accept

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Manuscript NO: 90426

Title: Is there a need for universal double reflex testing of HBsAg-positive individuals for hepatitis D infection?

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05426937

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Pakistan

Manuscript submission date: 2023-12-03

Reviewer chosen by: Yu-Lu Chen

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-12-18 10:58

Reviewer performed review: 2024-01-05 03:52

Review time: 17 Days and 16 Hours

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| 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 |
| Novelty of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty |
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| Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance |
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <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 |
| 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 |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Most countries lack high-quality hepatitis D virus (HDV) prevalence data, and published data are often biased by the collection techniques employed. The current practice of diagnosing HDV is stepwise. It is based on the doctor's decisions and requires a considerable number of visits. Screening HBsAg-positive patients for HDV is done only on high-risk individuals in many countries. Double reflex testing involves anti-HDV testing of all HBsAg-positive individuals, followed by HDV RNA testing for those who test positive for anti-HDV. It is gaining attention because of the severe implications of co-infection and may emerge as an effective strategy for identifying undiagnosed cases. There is a need to educate care providers to test HBsAg-positive patients for hepatitis D. Government-based hepatitis control programmes should implement reflex testing to ease the burden on doctors. The content of this manuscript is interesting. We believe this manuscript is valuable for all the researchers who are interested in HDV. This study focuses on current research hot spots and frontiers, which is very important for subsequent research. The article also puts forward the current problems and future research directions. Therefore, I recommend accepting and publishing this manuscript.