

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 6013-revision.doc).

Title: HCV Core Antigen Testing, role in diagnosis and monitoring of HCV disease and treatment

Author: Hans Ludger TILLMANN

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 6013

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers and editor:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) This is a scientifically and medically interesting manuscript. Although I have considerable sympathy for the author, the standard of English needs to be improved considerably prior to publication.

Appreciate and acknowledge the valid criticism, that this paper was, due to time constraints, still in a draft stage,

(2) This manuscript is a draft of a review article regarding the usefulness of detecting core protein in the follow-up of HCV-infected patients. Several points require clarification such as why, in contrast to standard tests, core would be more readily detected than RNA in serum batches and in dialysis patients testing positive for core but negative for HCV RNA (page 2). There are also several mistakes: e.g., "HCV RNA might be a substitute for HCV RNA testing" (page 3). All mistakes should be corrected and the wording revised. On the prospective side: How about the detection of core protein and/or viral capsid associated to blood cells, lipoproteins or in other compartments, and

in the evaluation process/follow-up of drugs targeting HCV core assembly?

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In this revised manuscript the section, which were not well formulated and therefore remained somewhat unclear were revised. Concerning the question towards HCV Core Antigen being associated with blood cells, lipoproteins or other compartments, I am not aware that there are any data. Likewise, there are no data concerning the role of HCV Core antigen in the evaluation / follow-up of drugs targeting HCV core assembly. As such drugs are currently not at the forefront to become a clinical reality anytime soon, I did not included a speculative discussion on that topic.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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