

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



Feb 28, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5725-review.doc).

Title: Epidemiology and Natural History of Hepatitis C Virus Infection

Author: Mei-Hsuan Lee, Hwai-I Yang, Yong Yuan, Gilbert L'Italien and Chien-Jen Chen

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5725

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

1 Format has been updated

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

Reveiwer #1

Reviewed by 00051373

This is an well designed and well written minireviews which may be interesting for hepatologists and other clinicians. For this reason, I recommend this paper for publication in World Journal of Gastroenterology. However, I suggest to revise a writing error at the title of the section 3: Risk Factors for HCV (HIV) Infection. After this correction, your paper will be worthy of publication without reservations.

Response to the reviewer:

Thanks for reviewer's comments. We have corrected it.

Reviewer #2

Reviewed by 00053485

In this report, Mei-Hsuan Lee et al. reviewed epidemiology and natural history of hepatitis C virus infection. Although the authors well summarized the topic, this review article will be more attractive by adding some recent topics. Major comments 1. Environmental factors including insulin resistance and steatosis affect natural history of HCV-infected patients. This topic is better to be described by citing following papers (Gastroenterology. 2004;126:840-8., Am J Pathol. 2004;165:1499-508., J Hepatol. 2005;42:41-6., Gut. 2005;54:533-9. etc.). 2. A viral factor such as amino acid substitutions in the hepatitis C virus core region is an important factor for natural history of HCV-infected patients. This topic is also better to be added in the text by citing following papers (J Hepatol. 2007;46:403-10., Hepatology. 2007;46:1357-64., Hepatology. 2010;52:421-9., Hepatology. 2012;56:2134-41. etc.). 3. Effect of genetic variation in interleukin 28B on hepatocarcinogenesis is a recent topic. One would be interested in the authors' opinion on the issue. Minor comment 1. This review will become more attractive by adding

schemes for epidemiology and natural history of hepatitis C virus infection.

Response to the reviewer:

Thanks for reviewer's comments. We have added the issues and the references per reviewer's request.

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

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Chien-Jen Chen

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Sincerely,



Chien-Jen Chen, Sc.D.