

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 56587

Title: Etiology and management of liver injury in patients with COVID-19

Reviewer's code: 03262157

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: FACP, FRCP (C), MBChB

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Saudi Arabia

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-05-08

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-05-08 17:22

Reviewer performed review: 2020-05-09 17:01

Review time: 23 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 Grade E: Do not publish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
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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

Appropriate review in this topic and contribute to increase knowledge in the fast growing topic and pandemic

Response:

Thanks for the positive comments for the review.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 56587

Title: Etiology and management of liver injury in patients with COVID-19

Reviewer's code: 02861217

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Chief Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Armenia

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-05-08

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-05-10 07:05

Reviewer performed review: 2020-05-10 17:45

Review time: 10 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input 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



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear colleagues, In manuscript, you analyzed and summarized versions about etiology of liver injury in patients with COVID-19. Your manuscript is touch upon very important topic in COVID-19 and should be published shortly after minor revision. I have two remarks: 1. I am not sure that it is correct to mentioned “evidence for the fecal-oral transmission” in the sentences “Fecal specimen nucleic detection also showed positive results in COVID-19 patients[16, 24], providing evidence for the fecal-oral transmission and digestive system involvement of the virus[25]”. From CDC: “The virus that causes COVID-19 has been found in the feces of some patients diagnosed with COVID-19. However, it is unclear whether the virus found in feces may be capable of causing COVID-19. There has not been any confirmed report of the virus spreading from feces to a person. Scientists also do not know how much risk there is that the virus could be spread from the feces of an infected person to another person. However, they think this risk is low based on data from previous outbreaks of diseases caused by related coronaviruses, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).” 2. Conclusion, that clinical features such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea and positive results of nucleic acid detection in fecal specimen and blood “providing evidence for viral exposure of the liver” in the sentences “Based on recent studies, clinical features such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea can be present in COVID-19 [4, 29], and fecal specimen and blood nucleic acid detection also have shown positive results in COVID-19 patients, providing evidence for viral exposure of the liver [16, 24, 25].” is not reliable. Sincerely

Respond: It is a very valuable suggestion. In-deed fecal-oral transmission has not been clinically described, and according to a joint WHO-China report, did not appear to be a significant factor in the spread of infection. We have revised our manuscript according



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to the comments.

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Manuscript NO: 56587

Title: Etiology and management of liver injury in patients with COVID-19

Reviewer's code: 03253490

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Turkey

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-05-08

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-05-10 17:35

Reviewer performed review: 2020-05-12 00:04

Review time: 1 Day and 6 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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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Yang et al. aimed to review the epidemiological characteristics, etiology, management and preventive strategies of liver injury in patients with COVID-19. The review is well written. I have two questions: 1-Would you give some information about the impact of COVID-19 in patients with preexisting chronic alcoholic liver disease? 2-Is there any relation between increased GGT levels and severe liver disease in patients with COVID-19? Please add your answers to manuscript with references. Thank you for giving opportunity to review this study.

Respond: Thanks for the valuable suggestions. There was case report of the impact of COVID-19 on alcoholic liver disease, which we have added in our manuscript in the "Exacerbation of preexisting liver disease".

The laboratory markers of bile duct injury, such as ALP and GGT levels, did not increase significantly in COVID-19 based on the current report, and it seems the AST rather than GGT levels is related to the severities of the disease. (Lei F et al, Hepatology ,PMID: 32359177 DOI: 10.1002/hep.31301) (Xie H et al. Liver international, PMID: 32239591 DOI: 10.1111/liv.14449).