

March 30, 2015



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 16629-review.doc). We would kindly like to thank the reviewers for their time, thoughtful comments and helpful suggestions. As a result of their efforts we have a revised manuscript that is much improved and will be of benefit to your readers.

Title: Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders Co-morbidities and Hepatitis C: Diagnostic and Treatment Implications

Author: Peter Hauser & Shira Kern

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 16629

The manuscript has been revised based on the comments and suggestions of reviewers. A summary of the changes are listed- below.

1. Format has been updated and title modified. Also minor edits have been made throughout the manuscript in order to improve readability. Major revisions based on reviewers comments have also been made and are listed- below.
2. Revisions and responses are listed by reviewer – below.

1) Response to Reviewer 02860897:

Thank you so much for your kind review, we are very pleased that you found our article timely and systematic. We appreciate your comments and value the importance of identifying the implications and anticipated problems for patients with HCV and psychiatric disorders in 'real world' clinics as differentiated from research studies in a controlled setting. Specific to your comments, we have emphasized 2 references from our group; the first is a retrospective review in a clinical setting of people with HCV and pre- existing Major Depressive Disorder or MDD (people with HCV who had MDD prior to starting antiviral therapy and who were stable on antidepressant medications); the second is also a retrospective review of people with HCV and co-morbid Schizophrenia. In both studies we compared compliance, antiviral treatment outcome, emergency room visits and in-patient hospitalizations of these groups to people with HCV and who had no psychiatric co-morbidities (see highlighted text on pages 5 and 6). In both studies no differences between groups were found in these outcomes. Furthermore, we have briefly addressed the issue of drug/ drug interactions between antiviral treatment medications and psychotropic medications. Please see changes in the limitations section of our revised manuscript (page 13). We appreciate your suggestions and believe the addition of this information has strengthened our manuscript.

2) Response to Reviewer 02527808:

Thank you very much for the time you spent reviewing our manuscript. We are very pleased that

you found the manuscript comprehensive, well written and organized. Thank you as well for your suggestions which we have incorporated into the manuscript. We now have a list of abbreviations available at the end of the manuscript to assist the reader, provide clarifications and allow easy referral (see list on page 36). Furthermore, we realize the paper focuses primarily on psychiatric comorbidities; our review has included some references on substance use disorders as well, however, there is less written on substance use disorders as it pertains to antiviral therapy currently. We agree that a separate and second manuscript is warranted and we would be happy to write a second review on this particular topic.

3) Response to Reviewer 02939706

Thank you very much for your detailed review of our manuscript. We are very pleased that you found it to be a good manuscript that is correctly developed, with a suitable order that creates an awareness on the subject by evaluating existing literature. We are very pleased that you would accept this article in its current form, however, we have made changes based on your suggestions and have reduced the contents of the “outcomes” section of each table in order to enhance clarity. Additionally, we have reviewed abbreviations in the manuscript and have also included the addition of a list of abbreviations at the end of the manuscript for further clarification and organization (see page 37). Thank you again for these suggestions as we believe they have improved our manuscript.

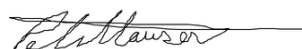
4) Response to Reviewer 01221925

Thank you for taking the time to review our manuscript, we are pleased that you found our paper interesting. We value the importance of further identifying other comorbidities and substance use disorders that may coexist and affect people with HCV. We have focused our review on the major psychiatric illnesses and in particular depression but agree that examining anxiety disorders, insomnia, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance use disorders and cognitive disorders would be of interest but there is currently less written on these topics than depression. As mentioned a second manuscript that focuses on these topics may be useful to this journal's readership.

3. References and typesetting were corrected.
4. Tables were modified in order to enhance readability.

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

Respectfully,



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