



המכון למחלות דרכי העיכול והכבד
Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

07-June-2020

Dear editor and reviewer,

On behalf of all co-authors, we would like to thank the reviewer and the editor for your well-considered and critical comments on our manuscript #56515, titled: "Emergency department targeted screening for Hepatitis C does not improve linkage to care". We modified the manuscript in accordance with the reviewer's every comment. The additions and modification of the manuscript are highlighted in yellow. Attached is a point-by-point response:

Reviewer #1:

Specific Comments to Authors:

1. Abbreviation not be used in the Abstract.

Response: Thank you for your comment, abbreviations were changed and removed from the abstract.

2. Please elaborate the future prospect of the study and explain the impact of the current study on the specific population.

Response: Thank you for your helpful suggestion. We have added the following comments to the discussion section in the text: "Future avenues for investigation include targeted screening in high-risk populations, conducted in facilities with long-term follow-up to ensure linkage to care – such as opioid substitution therapy clinics, HIV clinics, prisons etc. Additionally, further studies will be needed to address whole-population non-targeted screening in order to assess linkage to care in these populations. Furthermore, efforts are being made to identify previously diagnosed but yet untreated patients and link them to care."

3. Do you have the data of the HCV genotype in different group. which genotype was more prevalent?

Response: Thank you for your question. Unfortunately, we did not have data on HCV genotype, as that was one of the tests patients were referred to complete only if screening was positive. We added a sentence in the methods section. As detailed in our paper, most of the patients did not

Prof. Oren Shibolet
Director-Dept. of Gastroenterology
Tel: 972-3-6973984
Fax: 972-3-6966286



המרכז הרפואי ת"א ע"ש סוראסקי

פרופ' אורן שבולת
מנהל מכון הגסטרו
טל: 972-3-6973984
פקס: 972-3-6966286

המכון למחלות דרכי העיכול והכבד
Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

continue follow-up and did not complete the recommended tests. If deemed necessary by the editor, we will add an additional statement concerning this point in the discussion.

Yours,

Oren Shibolet M.D.

Director, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Tel-Aviv Medical Center & Tel-Aviv University

Weizman 6 Tel-Aviv, Israel

orensh@tlvmc.gov.il