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### ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 11998

**Title:** Vitamin D status and viral response to therapy in hepatitis C infected children

**Reviewer code:** 02444960

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2014-06-17 19:45

**Date reviewed:** 2014-07-02 00:41

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

#### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The study by Azza A. Eltayeb et al. investigated the effect of vitamin D in the response to antiviral treatment in chronic infected paediatric patients with HCV. There are several works published in the literature exploring this issue, however the relationship between vitamin D status and response to antiviral therapy remains unclear. Then, the aim of this work is of interest, also the methodology used by the authors is appropriate and the results are enlightening. This work could help to clarify if vitamin D could improve the viral response and could prevent bone fragility in children infected with HCV.



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## ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 11998

**Title:** Vitamin D status and viral response to therapy in hepatitis C infected children

**Reviewer code:** 00006592

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2014-06-17 19:45

**Date reviewed:** 2014-07-08 23:49

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting study assessing the vitamin D status in children with HCV infection, showing deficiencies associated with lower bone density, which can be improved upon supplementation. The following comments should be dealt with by the authors:

- Page 9-statistics: indicate the post-test used in ANOVA analyses.
- Page 10: Description of Figure 2 indicates that the p value for the correlation shown is  $p < 0.01$ , however, a  $p = 0.132$  is indicated in the figure 2 presented in page 29. Correct this discrepancy.
- Page 16-line 5: The sentence "It may be due to 1, 25 Vit. D..." should be clarified. Does it mean 1,25 dihydroxy Vit. D? I have indicated in yellow several changes that improve the understanding of the work: please check for accuracy.



**ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT**

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 11998

**Title:** Vitamin D status and viral response to therapy in hepatitis C infected children

**Reviewer code:** 02444743

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2014-06-17 19:45

**Date reviewed:** 2014-07-09 17:40

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

**COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This study investigated the relationship between vitamin D status and response to antiviral therapy in patients with HCV infection and to evaluate the role of vitamin D supplementation in improving the antiviral therapy in HCV infection. Comments 1. The manuscript is poorly written and the language needs extensive improvement. There are too many mistakes in grammar and the using of abbreviation in text. 2. The authors should re-prepare and summary the current data, Tab 1-5 is unclear and confused. The "results" and "discussion" should re-write. 3. Tab 1-4, "p: significance total vs. control"? 4. HCV RNA test in control is "-" in Tab 2, but "10.21±0.74" in Tab 4; Vitamin D levels is also different between Tab 2 and 4, why? 5. Fig 1, what is meaning of "24 weeks post-treatment"? treatment 48 weeks? The different significance between A and B should be marked in Fig. 6. Fig 2, why to calculate the correlation between plasma parathormone and Z-score of BMD?