PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology
Manuscript NO: 75457
Title: Fibrosis regression following Hepatitis C antiviral therapy
Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed
Peer-review model: Single blind
Reviewer’s code: 06076623
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree: MD
Professional title: Doctor
Reviewer’s Country/Territory: China
Author’s Country/Territory: Egypt
Manuscript submission date: 2022-01-29
Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique
Reviewer accepted review: 2022-01-29 11:40
Reviewer performed review: 2022-02-04 05:05
Review time: 5 Days and 17 Hours

Scientific quality

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Language quality

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Conclusion

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Re-review

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Peer-reviewer

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<th></th>
<th>Peer-Review:</th>
<th>Anonymous</th>
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS
My detailed comments are as follows: 1. Could you review more about the specific pathophysiological mechanisms of liver fibrosis regression after Hepatitis C therapy? 2. Could you draw diagrams or tables about the key points of the article?
PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

Manuscript NO: 75457

Title: Fibrosis regression following Hepatitis C antiviral therapy

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer’s code: 05528144

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer’s Country/Territory: Italy

Author’s Country/Territory: Egypt

Manuscript submission date: 2022-01-29

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-02-05 07:30

Reviewer performed review: 2022-02-05 13:53

Review time: 6 Hours

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| Re-review | [ Y] Yes | [ ] No |

| Peer-reviewer | Peer-Review: [ Y] Anonymous | [ ] Onymous |
SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In the manuscript “Fibrosis regression following hepatitis C antiviral therapy”, Elsharkawy et al. presented a review of the literature focused on the topic of the possible regression of liver fibrosis in patients with chronic HCV infection after viral eradication. The topic is of great interest, especially in light of the need for more information on the correct management and follow-up of patients with SVR. The authors carefully analyze most aspects of the topic. However, the paper can be improved, both in content and form. Specifically, main issues are:

- An extensive revision of English is required. Many sentences appear unclear and the vocabulary needs to be implemented.
- At the end of the paragraph "HCV and liver fibrosis", a sentence is repeated consecutively. Moreover, the meaning of this sentence and the following ones (up to the end of the aforementioned paragraph) appears unclear and must be better explained, in order to avoid errors of understanding.
- In the paragraph "Fibrosis regression following HCV treatment:
does fibrosis really regress?", no reference was made about the potential impact of the
damage cofactors (eg: obesity, diabetes mellitus) in influencing the regression of fibrosis.
In my opinion this concept is crucial and needs to be discussed. - The paragraphs
"Antiviral treatment for HCV" and "Evaluation of fibrosis" show contents that need to be
anticipated for the correct reading and understanding of the manuscript. It is therefore
advisable to insert these paragraphs (or part of them) in the first part of the paper. -
The acronym LSM at the end of the paragraph "Fibrosis regression following HCV
treatment: does fibrosis really regress?" it has never previously been fully explained.
- In the section "Effect of fibrosis regression on clinical outcomes" the impact of viral
eradication on some of the most important HCV-related extrahepatic manifestations (eg
diabetes and atherosclerosis) is omitted. Numerous works deal with this theme. Eg:
- Adinolfi LE, et al. Reduced incidence of type 2 diabetes in patients with chronic hepatitis
C virus infection cleared by direct-acting antiviral therapy: A prospective study.
Diabetes Obes Metab. 2020 Dec;22(12):2408-2416. doi: 10.1111/dom.14168. PMID:
antiviral treatment on the incidence of major cardiovascular events: A prospective
multicentre study. Atherosclerosis. 2020 Mar;296:40-47. doi:
10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2020.01.010. PMID: 32005004. - Finally, in my opinion, it is
necessary to better explain why the interpretation of the improvement of liver stiffness
must be evaluated with caution and not assimilated to the regression of liver fibrosis. In
particular, it is necessary to better explain the role of steatosis and especially
inflammation, which appear to significantly influence liver stiffness. For all these
reasons, I would re-evaluate this manuscript for publication in “World Journal of
Gastroenterology” after major revision.
## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Hepatology*

**Manuscript NO:** 75457  
**Title:** Fibrosis regression following Hepatitis C antiviral therapy  
**Provenance and peer review:** Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed  
**Peer-review model:** Single blind  
**Reviewer’s code:** 02942289  
**Position:** Editor-in-Chief  
**Academic degree:** MD, PhD  
**Professional title:** Associate Professor, Research Associate  
**Reviewer’s Country/Territory:** Italy  
**Author’s Country/Territory:** Egypt  
**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-01-29  
**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique  
**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-02-06 10:49  
**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-02-06 11:02  
**Review time:** 1 Hour

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**Peer-reviewer**  
Peer-Reviewer: [Y] Anonymous  
[ ] Onymous
SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS
Dear Editor, The paper by Elsharkawy et al. entitled “Fibrosis regression following hepatitis C antiviral therapy” is a mini review of literature on regression of liver fibrosis in patients with chronic HCV infection after SVR. The paper can be improved. - An extensive revision of English is required. the meaning of several sentence appears unclear and must be better explained. - Many studies evaluating the regression of hepatic fibrosis (and liver stiffness) after viral eradication have been omitted. Please add a table on the outcome reported in different study. -And please add a second table on the histological outcome in this setting. - better explain the Histopathological features of fibrosis regression, ad the role of overlapping -better explain the pathogenesis and the burden of liver steatosis and inflammation on the liver stiffness, and in the regression I would re-evaluate this manuscript for publication in “World Journal of Gastroenterology” after major revision.
Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

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Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer’s code: 06076623

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Docor

Reviewer’s Country/Territory: China

Author’s Country/Territory: Egypt

Manuscript submission date: 2022-01-29

Reviewer chosen by: Li-Li Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-04-29 04:35

Reviewer performed review: 2022-04-29 07:56

Review time: 3 Hours

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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS
The revised version refines the article.