



### ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 17880

**Title:** Epidemiology of hepatitis C virus in Iran

**Reviewer's code:** 03074707

**Reviewer's country:** China

**Science editor:** Jing Yu

**Date sent for review:** 2015-03-28 19:55

**Date reviewed:** 2015-04-15 22:31

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript of Reza Taherkhani et al. reviews the current epidemiology of HCV in Iran, including the prevalence and epidemiology of HCV in different regions and groups such as blood donors, general population, risk groups, patients with immunological disorders or malignancy. Meanwhile, the genotypes distribution of HCV and occult HCV infection in Iran are also been described. The manuscript has several shortcomings: 1. In the abstract and introduction sections, the general information regarding HCV are too long and could be shortened. 2. The authors refer a large amount of articles, but the results should be summarized and more focused. 3. There are too much information about the global prevalence of HCV, which could be shortened. 4. The data appeared in the tables should be shortened in the text. 5. The manuscript is not properly written. It is unclear and needs a linguistic revision of all sections.

## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 17880

**Title:** Epidemiology of hepatitis C virus in Iran

**Reviewer's code:** 03262864

**Reviewer's country:** Germany

**Science editor:** Jing Yu

**Date sent for review:** 2015-03-28 19:55

**Date reviewed:** 2015-04-10 18:00

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	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"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The current manuscript "Epidemiology of hepatitis C virus in Iran" deals with the prevalence in different patient groups such as general population, risk groups and patients with immunological disorders. The authors compile the results of a large number of studies. There are some aspects which should be revised, presented in more detail or shortened: HCV transmission is transmitted via blood or blood products. Transmission via body fluids or sexual intercourse is widely discussed and not seen as a route of transmission in HCV in contrast to HBV or HIV. Infections by sexual intercourse are mostly related to by mucosal exposure to infectious blood or serum-derived fluids (Alter, 2011). Patients developing liver cirrhosis or HCC may be much higher than 3-11% (page 3) and HCC usually occurs only in patients with liver cirrhosis or advanced fibrosis. Recent reviews on natural course provide up to date information (Westbrook & Dusheiko 2014). Detailed information on cirrhosis development are provided by a meta-analysis by Thein et al., 2008. On page 3 is stated that prevention is a major objective. There is no information on treatments available in Iran. Due to recent improvements in HCV therapy information on available therapies should be added. Spelling of numbers should be consistent in text and tables (thousands separators, number of decimal places).



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I assume that prevalence figures are based on antibody prevalence and not confirmed HCV-RNA. This should be mentioned. ? Data on worldwide prevalence figures should be checked as stated numbers for UK and Scandinavia seem very low (page 4, 0.01-0.1%). A recent report by Public Health England assumes a prevalence of 0.4% in the UK. Prevalence figures for international comparison should be based on general population estimates. ([https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/337115/HCV\\_in\\_the\\_UK\\_2014\\_24\\_July.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/337115/HCV_in_the_UK_2014_24_July.pdf)) ? Prevalence rates have an enormous variability in the different studies which are presented. For better comprehensibility authors should mention the reasons for these differences. Main focus should be on large studies. These studies could be presented in more detail. Not all studies have to be mentioned in the text as they appear in the tables. Further, explanations for differences such as non-collected or unadjusted co-factors should be mentioned which could distort study results. ? Some parts include too much general information (HCV in immunological disorders, genotype distribution, occult HCV infection) and should be shortened. Comparison of genotype distribution with other countries could be summarized in a table or figure. ? Further, I would recommend a linguistic revision of the manuscript by a native speaker as some parts do not read very well.

## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 17880

**Title:** Epidemiology of hepatitis C virus in Iran

**Reviewer's code:** 02528485

**Reviewer's country:** Taiwan

**Science editor:** Jing Yu

**Date sent for review:** 2015-03-28 19:55

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	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"/> The same title	<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"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The review manuscript entitled "Epidemiology of hepatitis C virus in Iran" by Reza Taherkhani, Fatemeh Farshadpour is well-presented and comprehensive. In this review, the authors reviewed and discussed the various aspects of epidemiology of HCV in Iran and did present a clear view about current epidemiology of HCV in Iran. Several suggestions: (1) Please define "HCV infection" in the "Introduction" section. My impression from this review is that any one of the diagnostic tests (e.g., EIA for Ab, NAT for viral RNA) positive means "HCV infection". (2) Page 5, line 34, **【which is lower than Saudi Arabia (50.49%), Kuwait (43.4%), Jordan (32.51%) and Pakistan (23.7%) [79-82], but higher than Australia (2.3%), United Kingdom (2.7%), Germany (3.9%) and Bahrain (7.4%)】**. It is suggested to write as **【which is lower than those of Saudi Arabia (50.49%), Kuwait (43.4%), Jordan (32.51%) and Pakistan (23.7%) [79-82], but higher than those of Australia (2.3%), United Kingdom (2.7%), Germany (3.9%) and Bahrain (7.4%)】**. This suggestion is applied to other similar sentences in this article. (3) Page 3, line 22, **【the current knowledge about epidemiology of HCV infection merit reviewing】**. It is suggested to write as **【the current knowledge about epidemiology of HCV infection merits reviewing】**. This suggestion is applied to other similar sentences in this article.