

To the Editor
World Journal Gastroenterology

Object: Manuscript NO 41605, replay to reviewers

Dear Editor

Thank you very much for inviting me to write an editorial on "HCV, atherosclerosis and cardiovascular diseases: what impact of direct-acting antiviral treatments?".

Many thanks to the referees for their comments and suggestions that have improved the paper in the revised version.

Overall, in the new version, English was revised by a native-speaking person.

All editorial standards have been revised

Point-by-point replay to referee:

Referee 1: Dear author, The paper represents an invited editorial with a focus on an impact of HCV and associated treatment including antiviral agents for CVD. The article is written with the good English-speaking adduction of the arguments. The article is sufficiently novel and very interesting to warrant publication. All the key elements are presented and described clearly. The most discussable options in the article are: 1) Please harmonize your abstract polishing your way of the English-speaking expression and emphasizing the main idea 2) There is still a question in case of carotid lesions, did HCV accelerate or attenuate atherosclerotic progress. Would you please kindly elaborate this ideas, and discuss how is that disturbing for coronaries or cerebral arteries. 3) Please correct all your typos throughout the manuscript. For instance, "demonstrated" on page 7 and so on.

Replay to referee 1: Thank you very much for the favorable comments and suggestions.

Specific points:

- 1) Please harmonize your abstract polishing your way of the English-speaking expression and emphasizing the main idea.

Replay: the abstract has been reorganized with a less "personal" English and better emphasized the main concepts.

- 2) There is still a question in case of carotid lesions, did HCV accelerate or attenuate atherosclerotic progress. Would you please kindly elaborate this ideas, and discuss how is that disturbing for coronaries or cerebral arteries.

Replay: There is extensive literature demonstrating that HCV worsens atherosclerosis, induces cardiovascular disease and increases cardiovascular mortality. The main purpose of the Editorial was to discuss data on the effect of treatment with DAA on regression or improvement of atherosclerosis. However, the main concepts on the impact of HCV on atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease are discussed in the editorial as well as the main literature (in particular,

review and meta-analysis) has been mentioned. Furthermore, an explanatory figure on the impact of HCV on atherosclerosis is present in the editorial

- 3) Please correct all your typos throughout the manuscript. For instance, "demonstrated" on page 7 and so on.

Replay: Thank you and sorry. All typos have been corrected as well as English has been revised.

Referee 2: 1. It is a quality Editorial. 2. Reference number 27 is incomplete. Review all. 3. Cite the references in a uniform manner and according to the guidelines of the journal

Replay: Thank you very much for the favorable comments and for the suggestions. Reference 27 has now cited correctly. All references are now cited accordingly to guidelines of the journal.

Referee 3: The authors summarised the available data about cardiovascular and metabolic effects of HCV clearance by DAAs treatment. Some notes: some concepts are repeated through the text and could be synthetized. In the evaluation of atherosclerosis development long term, the increase of cholesterol levels after DAAs treatment should have an important role. The author should specify this and report at least one reference (Meissner, Gitto...).

Replay to referee 3: Thank you very much for the comments.

Specific points:

1. Some concepts are repeated through the text and could be synthetized.

Replay: all the text has been cleaned up by all repeated concepts.

2. In the evaluation of atherosclerosis development long term, the increase of cholesterol levels after DAAs treatment should have an important role. The author should specify this and report at least one reference (Meissner, Gitto...).

Replay: the concept that in the long run the increased levels of cholesterol observed after HCV clearance could be detrimental to the development of atherosclerosis was already underlined in the last paragraph of the editorial. In the revised manuscript we added the suggested reference (Meissner) that supports the concept.