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OPEN PEER REVIEW

Changing Epidemiology of Chronic Hepatitis C: A University Hospital Experience

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About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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1 Original submission

2 comments · 19 Jun 2024 – 19 Jun 2024

Associate Editor

MAJOR REVISION 19 Jun 2024

Dear EIC,
I thank the authors and express my appreciation to the researchers. The manuscript presents valuable research. But some revisions are needed. The purpose of the study was to analyze trends in demographics, transmission routes, and disease characteristics among patients diagnosed with hepatitis C over a 20-year period (2003-2023).
The authors should revise it based on the comments. Also, minor changes should be made to the abstract:
1-A summary of the statistical analysis results should be mentioned in the results section of the ABSTRACT.
2- Consider providing specific numerical data (e.g., percentages, statistical significance) where applicable to strengthen the impact of findings. Additionally, briefly discussing any limitations of the study (e.g., data completeness, retrospective nature) and suggesting avenues for future research would add depth to the abstract.

Editor-in-Chief

MAJOR REVISION 19 Jun 2024

Dear Author,
Thank you for submitting the article. It needs some revision. Please revise it based on the reviewers' and AE's comments.

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Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Dear Editor,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit a revised draft of my manuscript titled “Changing Epidemiology of Chronic Hepatitis C: A University Hospital Experience” to *Hepatitis Monthly*. I appreciate the time and effort that you and the reviewers have dedicated to providing your valuable feedback on my manuscript. I am grateful to the reviewers for their insightful comments on my paper. I have been able to incorporate changes to reflect most of the suggestions provided by the reviewers. I have highlighted the changes within the manuscript. Here is a point-by-point response to the reviewers’ comments and concerns.

Reviewer 1:

Thank you for your valuable time and effort. I am grateful for your valuable feedback and appreciate your recommendation for revisions to enhance.

We would like to thank Authors for presenting a comprehensive manuscript. There are also some shortfalls concerning the manuscript, some of which can be listed as follows;

1-Keywords are not suitable. It is suggested that authors delet “Key words: HCV C elimination,public health

Keywords are revised according to comments. We deleted HCV elimination and public health and used “Hepatitis C, Epidemiology, Intravenous drug users, Transmission routes”.

2-There are few grammatical and writing mistakes throughout the text; It is best to make sure that these mistakes are reduced, as much as possible.

The text was reviewed for grammatical and spelling errors and necessary corrections were made.

3-Structure of the article needs to be revised under supervision of a professional person again.
The article has been reviewed by an expert in this field.

Taken into consideration the above issues, it is suggested that Authors would re-submit their paper after carrying out revision.

Reviewer 2:

Thank you for your valuable time and effort. I am grateful for your valuable feedback and appreciate your recommendation for revisions to enhance.

Comments for Major Revision:

· Abstract should be revised in the result part especially, and it is needed to add details, Not just general sentences!!
The abstract was edited according to the suggestions. The results section was detailed.

· Introduction: Paragraph 2: HCV C?
It was written by mistake and has been corrected.

· All Tables and Figures need description, especially Table 1.
Suggested descriptions have been added.

· Add appropriate complete forms of abbreviations (e.g. IVDU).

The abbreviations reviewed and revised.

· The method of the paper is too short and incomplete. Add:
- The method of HCV detection. Laboratory techniques and diagnosis criteria of cirrhosis and other conditions should be defined clearly.
We added the method of HCV detection and the diagnosis of cirrhosis.

- Inclusion and exclusion criteria should be defined.
The inclusion and exclusion criterias were added.

· P3, L 104-108: seems unclear and needs to be wrong. Please rewrite it.

During this period in our country, screening was initiated in various high-risk populations, such as prisoners, as part of the hepatitis elimination programme. The increase in these years may be the result of routine screening.

· P4, L 130 and l 131: please define HAI and F score in method.
Biopsy data were removed from the manuscript. Therefore, this information was not added to the method section.

· Ensure that all sections adhere to the journal's formatting guidelines.
The article was also revised in this respect.

· Necessarily, the manuscript should be revised by a native English speaker. Instead of using complex words, pay more attention to the clarity of the text.

The paper was edited by a native English speaker. The certificate was added.

Reviewer 3:

Thanks for opportunity for review the manuscript titeled"Changing Epidemiology of Chronic Hepatitis C: A University Hospital Experience" Here i write my comments to authors:
I had the privilege of reviewing your study. I appreciate the thoroughness of your research. Here I have some suggestions and comments that should be addressed:
Introduction
-Some sentences lack references. All sentences quoted from other articles must have references at the end of themselves.
For example: It is estimated to affect 1% of the population in most countries globally with about 71 million chronic infections and about 400.000 deaths every year.
References were revised.
Methods
- Explain how the study size was arrived at.
The study size of 635 patients was arrived at based on the availability of data over a 20-year period.
-Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection.
-Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why.
- Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding, any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions, how missing data were addressed, how loss to follow-up was addressed, and any sensitivity analyses.
The available data were added.

Results
- Please report numbers of individuals at each stage of the study (e.g., numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analyzed). Give reasons for non-participation at each stage and consider use of a flow diagram.
The available data were added to the material and method section.
Discussion
- Summarize key results with reference to study objectives.
- Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias.
-Give a cautious overall interpretation considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other
The limitations and key results were added.

Associate Editor's Comments:

I am grateful to you for your insightful comments on my paper.

Thanks to the authors and appreciation to the researchers. The manuscript is a valuable research. But some revisions are needed. The purpose of the study was to analyze trends in demographics, transmission routes, and disease characteristics among patients diagnosed with hepatitis C over a 20-year period (2003-2023). Authors should revise it based on comments. Also minor changes should be done in abstract:
1-Summary of Statistical analysis results should be mention in result section of ABSTRACT.

The abstract especially result section was revised.

2- Consider providing specific numerical data (e.g., percentages, statistical significance) where applicable to strengthen the impact of findings. Additionally, briefly discussing any limitations of the study (e.g., data completeness, retrospective nature) and suggesting avenues for future research would add depth to the abstract.
The article was revised according to suggestions.

2 Revision 1

4 comments · 27 Jul 2024 – 2 Aug 2024

Referee 1 Reviewer

ACCEPT 27 Jul 2024

Dear AE,
I reviewed the manuscript again. The great effort in improving the manuscript is highly appreciated.
The authors have addressed all comments.
Thank you

Shahnaz Sali Reviewer

ACCEPT 30 Jul 2024

Dear associate editor

We would like to thank the authors for acting upon comments made by all peers. Implementation of the comments has led to good improvements to the paper.

Associate Editor

ACCEPT 2 Aug 2024

Dear EIC,
I read the manuscript, and the authors corrected the requested items. The article could be accepted at this stage.
Sincerely;

Editor-in-Chief

ACCEPT 2 Aug 2024

Dear Authors,
We appreciate your attentiveness and prompt response to the reviewer's feedback. Your manuscript is acceptable now.