OPEN PEER REVIEW

Open Peer Review (OPR)

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What is "Open Peer Review" process?

An "Open Peer Review" process is making the details of all review process (including reviewers, associate editors, and EICs comments) as "Public" as it is agreed by EIC, Authors, and reviewers.

Advantages of "Open Peer Review" process

- More transparency, constructiveness and tactful comments of the peer review process: leads to an increase in the quality of reviews
- More motivations for all involved roles in the review process
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- Prevents reviewers from following their individual agendas and leading to the detection of reviewers' conflicts of interests

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Middle East Journal of Rehabilitation and Health Studies
Article DOI: 10.5812/mejrh.101784
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Peer Review Report for "Hepatitis E Virus Infection Among Iranian Patients with Beta-Thalassemia"

Author(s): Farahnaz Bineshian, Najmeh Dalvand, Seyed Masoud Hosseini , Zohreh Sharifi

Review Timeline:

Submit Date: 19 Feb 2020
Revised Date: 20 May 2020
Accepted Date: 18 Jun 2020

Revision (0)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

Fatemeh Ghaffarifar: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) — 20 Feb 2020

Dear AE,
The topic for this manuscript is interesting.
The results of ELISA showed that 5 (4.5%) out of 110 serum samples of thalassemia patients were positive for anti- HEVAb. It will be suitable to add a table to this manuscript and showed the sex, age, education, marital status, and job or other risk factors for the positive persons.
Thanks.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (0) — 4 Mar 2020

Dear EIC
The reviewer(s) have recommended publication, but also suggest some minor revisions to the manuscript. Therefore, I invite the author to respond to the reviewer(s)' comments and revise his manuscript.
Kind regards,

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision (0)** 4 Mar 2020

Dear Author,

The reviewers' comments are mentioned. Please correct the details as mentioned above carefully according to reviewers' request.

Thanks.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

Reply to Reviewers

Ideally, the reviewing process can significantly improve the submitted manuscripts by allowing the authors to take into account the advice of reviewers. Author(s) must reply to all reviewers' comments in a separate Word file, point by point. A "**Reply to Reviewers**" document is submitted along with revised manuscript during submission of revised files, summarizing the changes that the authors made in response to the reviewers' comments. The responses to reviewers' comments specifies how the authors addressed each comment the reviewers made.

You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Dear Prof. Amir Hooshang Bakhtiari

Editor-in-Chief of Middle East Journal of Rehabilitation and Health Studies

I checked the manuscript entitled: "Hepatitis E virus (HEV) infection among Iranian patients with beta thalassemia" with manuscript ID: 101784, carefully and modify it's with reviewers comments as well as Editor in chief comments as fallow:

Reviewer 1:

The results of ELISA showed that 5 (4. 5%) out of 110 serum samples of thalassemia patients were positive for anti- HEV Ab. It will be suitable to add a table to this manuscript and showed the sex, age, education, marital status, and job or other risk factors for the positive persons.

Table1. Frequency of anti-HEV Ab positive in patients with beta thalassemia

Sex	(N/100%) (5/100%)
Male	3(60%)
Female	2(40%)
Age mean	Standard deviation
	28± 6.36
Marital status	
Single	1(20%)
Married	4(80%)
Risk factors	
History of surgery	3(60%)
History of hospitalization	2(40%)
History of blood transfusion	3(60%)

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Revision (1)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (1) 17 May 2020

Dear EIC,
Many thanks for revising the manuscript to address the previous comments. However, there are still some concerns regarding the rationale of the study and also limitations which should be discussed at the end of the discussion. We also noticed that the authors did not respond to the general comments provided by EIC in the first revision.
Best Regards

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (1) 17 May 2020

Dear Author,
The reviewers' comments are mentioned. Please correct the details as mentioned above carefully according to reviewers' request.
Thanks.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (2)

Reply to Reviewers

Ideally, the reviewing process can significantly improve the submitted manuscripts by allowing the authors to take into account the advice of reviewers. Author(s) must reply to all reviewers' comments in a separate Word file, point by point. A "**Reply to Reviewers**" document is submitted along with revised manuscript during submission of revised files, summarizing the changes that the authors made in response to the reviewers' comments. The responses to reviewers' comments specifies how the authors addressed each comment the reviewers made.

You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Dear Prof. Amir Hooshang Bakhtiari

Editor-in-Chief of Middle East Journal of Rehabilitation and Health Studies

I checked the manuscript entitled: "Hepatitis E virus (HEV) infection among Iranian patients with beta thalassemia" with manuscript ID: 101784, rev [1], carefully and modify it's with reviewers comments as well as Editor in chief comments as fallow:

Associate Editor's Comments:

1- Give a reference: Thalassemic patients due to receiving frequent blood transfusions are exposed to transfusion-transmitted infections.

Reference was given:

14-Dalvand N, Dalvand A , Sharifi Z, Hosseini SM. Prevalence of hepatitis E virus in thalassemia patients with hepatitis C in Tehran, Iran.2019;11(6)535-540.

15- Jain R, Perkins J, Johnson ST, Desai P, Khatri A, Chudgar U, Choudhury N. A prospective study for prevalence and/or development of transfusion-transmitted infections in multiply transfused thalassemia major patients. Asian J Transfus Sci. 2012 Jul;6 (2):151-4.

2- This study conducted to determine the prevalence of Hepatitis E Virus infection as an emerging virus among thalassemic patients in Tehran,Iran:

2- a-What is the main question and hypothesis of this study?

Is HEV transmitted by blood transfusion?

There is the possibility of HEV transmission by blood transfusion

2-b- Is there any previous study to investigate this?

Yes there is

2-c- If so, what was their finding? It is essential to show the rationale of study, it should be stated that there is a potential hazard that needs to be investigated in Iran,

There is the possibility of HEV transmission by blood transfusion. HEV can induce chronic infection in immunocompromised individuals and causes acute or chronic liver failure. So, in this study, the presence of HEV infection in multitransfuse patients was investigated.

Materials & Methods:

3- Add a sentence to the first paragraph, regarding the Ethical approval procedure

The present study was approved by The Ethics Committee of Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran.

4- At the end, it is essential to indicate the limitations of the study and how these limitations may affect the results

One of limitations of this study was the number of samples so, it is necessary to do a study on more samples.

5- Use Endnote software with the "VANCOUVER" style to enter your references, It is useful for your future research as well.

References were written based on Endnote.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (2)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (2) 18 Jun 2020

Dear EIC,
All comments have been addressed clearly and no further issue was found to revise.
Thanks.

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (2) 18 Jun 2020

Dear Author,
The document is reviewed carefully by the reviewers. According to their comments and your revisions as requested, this manuscript is accepted.
Thanks.