19-september-2024

Dear prof. Zaki,

You submitted the manuscript AJGH-2408-1062, OCCURRENCE OF HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA (HCC) FOLLOWING DIRECT ANTIVIRAL AGENTS (DAA) THERAPY," to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. The reviewer's comments (s) are included at the end of this email.

The reviewers have requested revisions to your manuscript.  Therefore, I invite you to respond to the reviewers' comments and revise your manuscript. Instructions on how to do this can be found at the bottom of this email.

Because we are trying to facilitate the timely publication of manuscripts submitted to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, your revised manuscript should be submitted as soon as possible.

Once again, thank you for submitting your manuscript to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. I look forward to your revision.

Sincerely,

Salem Y Mohamed

Chief Editor, African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Please revise your manuscript using a word processing program and save it on your computer.  Please also highlight the changes to your manuscript within the document using the track changes mode in MS Word or using bold or colored text.

Once the revised manuscript is prepared, you can send it to me via email.

When submitting your revised manuscript, please provide your responses and details of changes made to each comment in an Author Response Letter.  To expedite the processing of the revised manuscript, please be as specific as possible in your response to the reviewers.

**Reviewer Comments to Author:**

**Reviewer1: (ss)**

I read your paper about HCC after DAA with great interest.

You have effectively highlighted a fundamental concept and, in line with EASL recommendations, have not stopped HCC surveillance after it. Your adherence to these guidelines is commendable and adds credibility to your work.

You need to specify the research period from 2019 or 2020 to 2024. There are two dates mentioned in the Research.

In the discussion, you compare HCC after Treatment with interferon to DAA; this comparison isn't fair, as patients who received interferon are compensated patients, but those who received DAA may be decompensated, so unsurprisingly, the more deteriorated as a high incidence of HCC.

**Reviewer 2: (ME)**

The authors investigated the association between DAAs and HCC among patients treated for HCV, and they figured out some predictors for this association. The work looks interesting. However, we have some comments aimed at improving the quality:
1- The methods section needs more elaboration
2- describe the treatment protocol adopted for HCV treatment in Pakistan
3- why was the type of DAAs not analyzed in the HCC predictors
4- There are many comments in the attached Word file.

**Reviewer (3):**

Paper cannot be evaluated till the table authors depend upon to conclude. Even the sole table in the manuscript displays descriptive data without any source of analysis.

**Editor Comments to Author:**

1. Please check the author names and affiliations included on your Title Page, mainly that the spelling of all authors' names is correct. They are cited in the order you wish them to appear in the final article. In addition, each author's affiliation details are correct.

2. Please include a 'Structured Abstract': not more than 250 words, broken down into, i.e., Aims, Patients & Methods/Materials & Methods, Results, and Conclusions. For authors presenting the results of clinical trials, the guidelines recommended by CONSORT should be followed when writing the abstract (http://www.consort-statement.org/), and the clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract, where available.

3. Please include up to 10 keywords in your revised manuscript (including the four keywords you selected as part of the submission process).

4. Please amend the references as per the author's guidelines:

a. References should be numerically listed in the reference section in the order they occur in the text.

b. References should appear as a number, i.e., [1, 2] in the text.

c. References should cite three authors et al.: It is our house style to list a maximum of six authors and, if there are more than this, three authors et al.

5. Please ensure all tables and boxes are titled and cited in the text. Three-line tables are preferred.

Please find a link to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Author Guidelines, which explains these sections in more detail: <https://ajgh.journals.ekb.eg/journal/authors.note>.

6. Please check the PDF file of your manuscript regarding plagiarism checking.

7. Please add the scale bar, annotations, magnifications, and program that generated these figures. Also, it is better to submit figures with high resolution and brightness.