08-August-2022

Dear Prof Dr. Ahmed Agrodey, Samia Hussien, Sayied A Gad

You submitted a manuscript ID AJGH-2207-1009 entitled "The relationship between HCV- related hepatocellular carcinoma and IL-23 receptor gene polymorphism" 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, and I look forward to receiving 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.

Please provide your responses and details of changes made to each comment in an Author Response Letter when submitting your revised manuscript.  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:**

Reviewer Comment for Author

1- Abstract:

a. Result section needs revision after the required corrections are done.

2- Introduction:

a. Line 31-34, the references for the epidemiology part need an update.

3- Methods:

a. Line 56-57, "some different general hospitals (centers specialized for treatment of HCV)" please name these centers specifically.

b. Line 59-61, "after receiving permission from the national commission for viral hepatitis prevention and control, the Ministry of Health, and the medical ethics committee of Zagazig University's Faculty of Medicine," please provide the permission approval number and date (like IRB number) if possible.

c. Line 81, "RFLP," please mention more details in interpreting this method and types of polymorphism.

4- Results and tables:

a. Reformulate tables in a more understandable form.

b. Please write the general P value between the three groups, then denote the post hoc analysis in-between groups by lowercase letters and mention its P values in the tables' footnotes.

c. In table 2, you compare the actual value or their OR. Unfortunately, you put the two values making the comparison confusing.

d. Line 109-110, "The correlations among IL-23R polymorphism and HCC individuals were visible for a recessive mode of heredity" please clarify this statement with more details.

e. Can you provide correlation and regression analysis with the OR of most independent risk factors?

5- Discussion:

a. Line 120-122, "So, we decided to study and analyze the correlation of IL-23R SNP rs11209026 and the prevalence of HCV-related HCC in Egyptian patients (19)" clarify the reference 19 for what?

b. I noticed you built your discussion on old studies more than ten years ago. However, more recent studies are available, like "Pan X, Wang G. Correlations of IL-23R gene polymorphism with clinicopathological characteristics and prognosis of hepatocellular carcinoma patients after interventional therapy. Genomics. 2019 Jul 1;111(4):930-5."

c. Please provide a paragraph about points of strengths and limitations of your study with recommendations for future studies.

**Reviewer 2:**

Peer review in the uploaded files.

**Reviewer 3:**

Peer review in the uploaded files(2 files)

Corrections are highlighted with a red color.

**Reviewer 4:**

Peer review in the uploaded files.

**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 in which 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 is more than this, three authors et al.

5. Please ensure that all tables and boxes are titled and cited in the text.

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.