08-february-2023

Dear Prof Dr. ARSENE AKT KABAMBA,

You submitted a manuscriptAJGH-2301-1030 entitled "Knowledge, attitude, and practice towards hepatitis B and C viruses in the population of Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo." 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: (biostatistician)**

Tables need some modifications to make data self-explanatory and exhibit predictors of KAP

Good job, but it needs some modifications, as highlighted in the manuscript.

**Reviewer 2:**

many thanks for your excellent work

the formulation of the paper is very good and informative

only some remarks should be taken into consideration

Abstract: -

1- Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or C virus (HCV) infection: -Both of them are a significant problem, so it was better to say instead of OR

Introduction: -

1- They have been the seventh leading cause of death worldwide. The complications of HCV and HBV may be the 7th cause of death worldwide, not HCV and HBV.

2- References in the manuscript should be written as numbers, e.g. [1], and the details will be mentioned in the reference section.

3- Punctuation marks should be revised‎

**Reviewer 3:**

The authors discussed the KAP of Congolese patients in Lubumbashi ward JBV, HCV. The work looks interesting, especially from the public health point of view. We have some comments that would improve the quality of the work:

A- In the study design:

- The main concern is the possibility of selection bias. It should be clearly explained how the sample size was calculated and the methods of selection

- The questionnaire should be tested before circulating to be sure it is accepted and can be handled among persons with a low level of education and health culture

- Some other comments in the attached word file

B- In the writing style

- Some language comments are shown in the attached word file

**Reviewer 4:**

1) Many grammar and editing errors ----- I highlighted some in the manuscript e.g.

of the participants did not have good -------had bad

were---- being

survey was ----were

towards---toward

\*They have been the seventh leading cause of death in the world-------------------They have been the world's seventh leading cause of death

\*-negative for ---------negative practice with

\*considered as low -------considered low

\*involvement to ---------involvement in

2) At the abstract

\*to determine the level of knowledge, attitudes, and behavior of ------ should be Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices

\*towards HBV or HCV----- and not or

\* A total of 704 participants, including 478 men and 226 women ----- in the methodology better to add the selection criteria ( We targeted all people of both sexes and ages) while the number of males and females should be placed in the results.

\* both a structured online and physical questionnaire------ should be online and printed or paper questionnaires

\* Knowledge about HBV and/or HCV in the Congolese population living in Lubumbashi has proven incomplete. Similarly, the attitudes and practices of the population towards these infections were limited ---------------- what is the definition of insufficient ( unclear term )

while in the final conclusion,( The overall knowledge of the participants was found to be insufficient. Their attitude and practice were also limited)

\*HBV and/or HCV using the abbreviations should be preceded by the full name first.

\*Keywords: Knowledge, attitudes, practices, Hepatitis, DRC.------- keyword bold

DRC ----no abbreviations in the keywords better placed Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

3) at the introduction

\* The introduction should be divided into paragraphs

\*all the references in the manuscript et al, ------et al.,

\* The most important transmitted ------- important infection

\*hepatitis B infections and/or C.-------- B and C infections.

4) the methodology

\*Site, type, and --------setting , design ,and

\*Evaluated parameters ----- would be placed under the Tools and Data collection technique

\*attitudes who answered more than 70% of the attitude-related questions related to HBV and HCV was considered to have a positive attitude. A participant who answered less than 70% o--------------------- what about the 70%?

better to be classified into three groups (bad, average, good)

to be more informative

\*Practice ---- It was a question of knowing here the reasons for which the participants practice prevention or control of contamination of HBV and HCV----- unclear sentences

\* add the questions of (knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices) --- and the reference of these questions.

\* results :

age (y) ----------------------------

[18 - 25] 18-<25

[26 - 40] 25-<40

[41 - 55] 40- <55

\* p-value ------p italic

\*\* 0,03 - 0,00 -0,12-0,09--5,6 ± 1,5 -------- replace (,) with ( .)

\*Divorced 0 0 0 0

\* add the total score, and the classification of KAP in table II , III, iv,

4) The discussion should be divided into paragraphs

5) add a list of abbreviations

7)

8) An extensive health education campaign should be provided to the general population to raise awareness about viral hepatitis. Therefore, public health interventions aimed at improving mass screening practices for HBV and HCV are needed------------should be placed at the recommendation

6) The references should be arranged in alphabetical order, not numbers

**Reviewer 5:**

It is an exciting study discussing a significant health problem

1- Table 11 shows diarrhea and constipation, not symptoms of HBV or HCV. Patients always have flu-like symptoms followed by jaundice or not.

2- In table III: the question Do you have hepatitis B and/or C? 699 participants answered no

And in table IV the question, have you ever been tested for hepatitis B and/or C viruses? 618 participants were not tested, so the first question needs to be changed to do you have symptoms of hepatitis B and/or C?

**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. 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.