Author's response to reviews

Title: Case Control Study to Identify Risk Factors for Acute Hepatitis C virus Infection in Egypt

Authors:

Amr Kandeel (kandeelamr@yahoo.com)
Maha Talaat (maha.talaat.ctr.eg@med.navy.mil)
Salma Afifi (salma.afifi.eg@med.navy.mil)
Nasr El-Sayed (nasr_elsayed@hotmail.com)
Moustafa Abdel Fadeel (moustafa.fadeel.eg@med.navy.mil)
Rana Hajjeh (rfh5@CDC.GOV)
Frank Mahoney (fjm2@cdc.gov)

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Author's response to reviews:

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Series Editor (Medicine)
BMC Infectious Diseases
BioMed Central
Floor 6, 236 Gray's Inn Road
London
WC1X 8HB
United Kingdom

Dear Prof. Jigisha Patel:

Please find enclosed our manuscript for consideration for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases Journal. The article is entitled “Case control study to identify risk factors for acute hepatitis C virus infection in Egypt,” by Amr M. Kandeel, et al.

Numerous epidemiologic studies have reported diverse exposures associated with HCV infection in Egypt, however many are based on HCV-infected persons identified in cross-sectional seroprevalence surveys and not among patients with newly acquired infections. This study is designed to identify risk factors among patients with newly acquired HCV infection, focusing on various healthcare and community-level practices. It is anticipated the results will inform health officials on key areas to formulate strategies for the prevention of HCV transmission in Egypt.
This article fits the description stipulated by the U.S. Copyright Act of a United States Government work. Most authors are employees of the U.S. Government and this work was prepared as part of their official duties. Title 17 U.S.C. 105 stipulates that copyright protection under this title is not available for any work of the United States Government prepared by a military service member or employee of the United States Government as part of the person's official duties.

All authors have seen and approved this version of the manuscript and have taken part in writing and reviewing the manuscript. All agree to this version and its submission to BMC Infectious Diseases Journal. Authors made substantial contributions to the acquisition of data and analysis and interpretation of data.

Authors guarantee that the content of this manuscript is original, has not been published elsewhere in its current form or substantially similar form, and has neither been accepted for publication nor is under consideration for publication elsewhere. If accepted in BMC Infectious Diseases Journal, it will not be published elsewhere without the approval of the Editor-in-Chief.

In the revised version, we clarified that the study protocol (NAMRU3.2004.0021) was approved by the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3 Institutional Review Board and Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population (Assurance FWA00016183) in compliance with all applicable Federal regulations governing the protection of human subjects.

If the manuscript is accepted for publication, a purchase order for publication charges, if required, will be issued by our command and shall be ready to accompany the galley proofs back to you.

Please address correspondence to:

Commanding Officer
Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3
Attn: Dr. Salma Afifi, Code 304
PSC 452, Box 5000
FPO AE 09835-0007
E-mail: salma.afifi.eg@med.navy.mil

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

R. M. WILKENING
Captain, Medical Corps
U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer

Copy to:
Dr. Salma Afifi
No revision received