Reviewer's report

Title: Detection of hepatitis C virus RNA in saliva of patients with active infection not associated with periodontal or liver disease severity

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Reviewer: Mitermayer G Reis

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Review of Detection of Hepatitis C virus RNA in Saliva of patients with active infection not associated with periodontal or liver disease severity.

This work had the objective to determine whether presence of periodontal and gengival disease may be a contributing factor for virus dissemination.

The manuscript is clearly written and the data clearly presented. The authors concluded that the detection of HCV in saliva was associated with a relatively high viral load in serum but not with the level of periodontal disease or liver disease severity.

I have only a few comments for the authors to address.

Major Compulsory Revision

Since 4 individuals with high levels of HCV in serum tested negative in the saliva, it is necessary to explain if were used the same clinical criteria and protocol of investigation. Earlier studies suggest that discrepancies in HCV-RNA detection from different laboratories may relate to sample handling, differing time intervals between collection and storage, and different RNA extractions methodologies used.

Figure 2 is not clear. Seems to me that HCV negative in saliva had high viral load in the serum. Is that true?

Minor Essential Revision

In the background section is necessary to clarify that blood transfusion was considered a important risk factor before the availability of blood test to screen blood donor. Also, drug use is not to important risk factor for HCV transmission in countries where crack replaced intravenous drug.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a
Declaration of competing interests:
I do not have competing interests.