

# Review of: "[Mini Review] Global Burden and Evolving Understanding of Hepatitis E Virus"

Francisco José Dutra Souto<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso

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I find the organization of the text very confusing. For example, in the Epidemiology section, the authors include concepts from viral genetics. It would be better to make a section called "hepatitis E virus," including the parts "virological characteristics" and "environmental resistance and survival." The section "Epidemiology" would be composed of "transmission routes," "animal reservoir and cross-species transmission," and "geographic distribution."

The English needs to be improved.

Introduction, rows 3-4

This sentence is not clear: "... 20 million cases are recorded each year, of which more than 3 million are acute cases causing approximately 44,000 deaths ...". There are 20 million cases each year, but only 3 million are acute? Are 17 million chronic cases? Certainly not. Would the authors mean that 17 million "cases" are asymptomatic infections and only 3 million are symptomatic cases? If that is what they meant, then the term "cases" is not accurate and should be replaced by "infections."

Introduction, rows 10-13

The sentence: "... the improvement of virological tools has demonstrated that many cases of hepatitis E belong to a sporadic form acquired in industrialized countries define the emerging nature of this infection in this so-called non-endemic area ..." could be clearer this way: "... the improvement of virological tools has demonstrated that many cases of hepatitis E occurring in so-called nonendemic industrialized countries result from sporadic autochthonous infections."

Introduction, rows 13-15

The sentence: "... other routes of contamination, including transfusional transmission, have come to light and differ depending on the species considered ..." does not make sense at this moment. Authors have not spoken about zoonotic transmission yet.

Introduction, row 17

I suggest to the authors that they split this paragraph in two paragraphs. The second of them would start with "In most cases ..."

“Modes of transmission” should be changed to “Transmission routes.”

Modes of transmission, rows 8-9

“Parenteral transmission from blood or its components is possible during transient viremia during the prodromal phase” should be changed to “Parenteral transmission from blood or its components is possible from the prodromal phase to the end of viremia.”

In the “4. Geographic distribution” section, “developed countries”: Authors should add that HEV has become the main cause of acute hepatitis today because these countries have reduced the incidence of new infections by other hepatotropic viruses through improved hygiene practices, immunization, and greater biosafety of injections and surgical procedures.

V. Clinical presentation, 1. Acute forms, rows 7-8: “Reinfections appear to be common and can lead to the development of a new infection”. This sentence is redundant. Of course, reinfection is a new infection. Maybe the author meant that a new HEV exposure can result in a new infection and a new symptomatic case.