

Peer Review

Review of: "Global Burden and Evolving Understanding of Hepatitis E Virus"

Hany Akeel Al-hussaniy¹

1. University of Baghdad, Iraq

This review provides a broad and informative overview of the epidemiology, transmission pathways, clinical manifestations, and management of Hepatitis E virus (HEV), highlighting its growing recognition as an important global public health issue. The manuscript successfully summarizes historical developments, zoonotic transmission patterns, and emerging clinical concerns such as chronic infection in immunocompromised individuals and extrahepatic manifestations. The inclusion of regional epidemiological data and discussion of diagnostic modalities enhances the educational value of the article. However, the manuscript presents several structural and methodological limitations that reduce its scientific rigor. The review lacks a clearly defined methodology, including database selection, search strategy, study selection criteria, and quality assessment of cited literature, which raises concerns regarding potential selection bias. Additionally, several epidemiological estimates and clinical statements are presented descriptively without sufficient critical synthesis or comparison across geographic regions and HEV genotypes. The discussion of therapeutic approaches, particularly ribavirin and emerging antiviral candidates, would benefit from integration of recent clinical trial data and guideline-based recommendations. Furthermore, the vaccine section, although informative, does not adequately address regulatory limitations, global availability challenges, or controversies surrounding routine vaccination strategies. The manuscript also contains areas of redundancy and excessive descriptive detail that could be streamlined to improve readability and analytical depth. Overall, the article serves as a useful narrative overview of HEV but would benefit from enhanced methodological transparency, stronger critical appraisal of evidence, and clearer integration of recent advances in HEV research.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.