



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2014_IJTDH_15727
Title of the Manuscript:	Epidemiology of hepatitis C virus infection in Egypt; overt and occult
Type of the Article	Mini review Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	Though I'm not a native English speaker and I don't use to pay special attention to the quality of language in scientific manuscripts, I'm sorry to state this time that the text of this manuscript must be significantly improved in regard to language. Occult HCV infection (OCI) is a very controversial issue since more than one decade ago. It's not a recent concept, and it's rejected by most virologists because three main reasons: 1. Lack of a proposed mechanism for explaining how a RNA virus other than a retrovirus may persist in a cell without achieving full replication; 2. No explanation for the lack of antibody response among otherwise immunologically normal hosts who experienced an acute viral infection resulting in virus persistence; 3. Lack of standardisation and satisfactory evaluation of performance for the laboratory tests required for the diagnosis of OCI. I would ask the authors to supress "overt and occult" from the title of the manuscript and to limit the mention of OCI to as much as a sentence which should offer these warnings to the readers. A mention to "Welker MW, Zeuzem S. Hepatology 2009; 49:665-675." could be useful.	The manuscript has been edited by a native English speaker. I understand the controversial role of occult HCV infection. What I mentioned is that interest in this subject HAS EMERGED RECENTLY IN EGYPT. Due the exceptional high prevalence/incidence of HCV in Egypt, Egyptian investigators are interested to know whether there is(are) impact(s) of such prevalence/ incidence on characteristics of OCI among Egyptian patients. I prefer to keep the title as it is due to the emerging interest in OCI in Egypt. Due to the unique situation as regards HCV infection in Egypt, OCI may have a role that may differ from other reports from other countries.
Minor REVISION comments	Since the data regarding anti-HCV prevalence among Egyptian children are properly summarised in a table, the corresponding paragraph in the text can be shortened considerably.	
Optional/General comments		