

Appendix 3 (as supplied by the authors): Excluded articles by level and question

Level 1: Title and Abstract Screening

1. Is it or does it include an original validation study of a blood-based qualitative immunoassay for hepatitis C? (Exclude rapid/point-of-care tests, geno/serotyping tests, tests applied to dried blood or saliva.)

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A E Silva, B Hosein, R W Boyle, C T Fang, M Shindo, J G Waggoner, J H Hoofnagle, A M Di Bisceglie (1994//). Diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C: comparison of immunoassays and the polymerase chain reaction. *The American journal of gastroenterology*, 89(4), 493

A Goudeau, F Dubois (2000//). [Diagnosis and biological surveillance of hepatitis C virus infections]. *La Revue du praticien*, 50(10), 1071

A Granito, L Muratori, P Muratori, G Pappas, M Guidi, F Cassani, U Volta, A Ferri, M Lenzi, F B Bianchi (2006//). Antibodies to filamentous actin (F-actin) in type 1 autoimmune hepatitis. *Journal of clinical pathology*, 59(3), 280

A Heim, D Wagner, T Rothamel, U Hartmann, J Flik, W Verhagen (1999//). Evaluation of serological screening of cadaveric sera for donor selection for cornea transplantation. *Journal of medical virology*, 58(3), 291

A J Czaja, H F Taswell, J Rakela, C M Schimek (1991//). Frequency and significance of antibody to hepatitis C virus in severe corticosteroid-treated autoimmune chronic active hepatitis. *Mayo Clinic proceedings*, 66(6), 572

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- A Martini, G Fattovich, M Guido, E Bugianesi, A Biasiolo, D Ieluzzi, A Gallotta, G Fassina, C Merkel, A Gatta, F Negro, P Pontisso** (2015//). HCV genotype 3 and squamous cell carcinoma antigen (SCCA)-IgM are independently associated with histological features of NASH in HCV-infected patients. *Journal of viral hepatitis*, 22(10), 800
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5. Is the (comparator) REFERENCE TEST one of the following?

Nahed Ismail, Geoffrey E Fish, Michael B Smith (2004//). Laboratory evaluation of a fully automated chemiluminescence immunoassay for rapid detection of HBsAg, antibodies to HBsAg, and antibodies to hepatitis C virus. *Journal of clinical microbiology*, 42(2), 610

6. Does the study report on the following OUTCOMES? (Tick all that apply)

7. Is the SETTING representative of primary care?

Pierre Zachary, Murielle Ullmann, Saadi Djeddi, Nicolas Meyer, Marie-Josée Wendling, Evelyne Schvoerer, Françoise Stoll-Keller, Jean-Pierre Gut (2005//). Evaluation of three commercially

available hepatitis C virus antibody detection assays under the conditions of a clinical virology laboratory. *Journal of clinical virology : the official publication of the Pan American Society for Clinical Virology*, 34(3), 207

8. Does the study take place in a country with a LOW OR MODERATE (<3.5%) PREVALENCE of chronic HCV infection?

Level 2: Full Text Review

1. Is the full-text article available for review?

2. What language is this article written in?

Ecemis T., Akcali S., Erbay Dundar P., Sanlidag T. (2012//). The threshold value of anti-HCV test in the diagnosis of HCV infection *Turkiye Klinikleri Journal of Medical Sciences*, 32(6), 1648

Suslov A.P., Kuzin S.N., Golosova T.V., Shalunova N.V., Malyshev N.A., Sadikova N.V., Vavilova L.M., Somova A.V., Musina E.E., Ivanova M.V., Kipor T.T., Timonin I.M., Kuzina L.E., Godkov M.A., Bajenov A.I., Nesterenko V.G. (2002//). Limits of diagnostic accuracy of anti-hepatitis C virus antibodies detection by ELISA and immunoblot assay *Russian journal of immunology : RJI : official journal of Russian Society of Immunology*, 7(2), 175

3. Is it or does it include an original validation study of a blood-based qualitative immunoassay for hepatitis C?

Kaur H., Manjari M., Thaman R.G., Singh G. (2012//). Prevalence of markers of Hepatitis C virus among the blood donors *Journal of Clinical and Diagnostic Research*, 6(6), 959

4. What TYPE OF PUBLICATION is it?

5. Is the STUDY POPULATION comprised of asymptomatic, non-pregnant adults (aged 18+ years) with unknown HCV status and

unknown liver enzyme values, and at average risk of HCV infection?

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10. Is the SETTING representative of primary care?

11. Does the study take place in a country with a LOW OR MODERATE (<3.5%) PREVALENCE of chronic HCV infection?