



ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 23204

Title: Genetic variation of hepatitis B virus and occult infection

Reviewer’s code: 00013065

Reviewer’s country: Germany

Science editor: Ya-Juan Ma

Date sent for review: 2015-10-30 09:22

Date reviewed: 2015-11-09 21:41

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this very interesting review article Dr. Zhu and colleagues summarized the current knowledge of genetic variations of occult HBV infection. The article is comprehensive, well and appropriate referenced (maybe somehow too much showing 166 references) and yet concise in its content. The introduction introduces the following sections well. The review article is informative and very interesting to read. The figures and table are well constructed, concise, and easy to follow. The main and important aspect of the current research on the mechanism of HBV mutants relevant for OBI has been well addressed. Actually, there are only minor criticisms and comments with regard to the content and sufficiency of the manuscript. Comments: 1) The title implies a review of all HBV variations; however, this review is focussed on OBI. Therefore my suggestion is to delete the “and” in the title to “genetic variation of occult hepatitis B virus infection” 2) There are some minor typing errors, e.g., first sentence of the Introduction, “.... replicates via (not vie) reverse...” And 4th para 1st sentence of the preS/S-Mutation section “..... substitutions of wild-type cysteines...” (not wide-type). Please check the document for more. 3) No Mutations section. There is a statement that “no (!) mutation” was found; however, because of the nature of HBV replication “no” mutation will never



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happen in HBV replication. I suggest specifying that no OBI-relevant mutations were detectable. This is also true for the title of this chapter and throughout the chapter.



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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting area of research and the manuscript covers a lot from this area. Some minor criticisms and comments concerning the manuscript: 1) The title needs modification because the manuscript deals only with occult HBV. 2) I suggest to change subtitle Viral factors and Host factors 2) Please do a careful language editing and there are some minor typing errors



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<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
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		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The presented article is written in fine English and explains an interesting medical problem. Articles selected for the review present current knowledge and have been selected very carefully. The problem of HBV occult infection is still under clinical investigations. The author concerned on the problem of coexistence HBV variants in whole viral population and analyzed the whole HBV genome (not only in "s" gen). The problem of correlation viral mutations in different genes with changes in surface antigen was clearly explained in this article. In my opinion, the author should discuss a problem of HBV extrahepatic replication on the hidden infection more widely. This problem was primary investigated by prof. Michalak from Toronto in Woodchuck model. Especially interesting is the problem of minimal HBV replication in lymphatic tissue on the transmitting HBV infection. This problem was only mentioned in this article. I also do not have enough of the explanation of the role the cccDNA storage on the persistence of viral infection in humans hepatocytes. Maybe the author's intention was to focus on the role of HBV variants in occult viral infection.