

**Supplementary Table 1 Cross-sectional studies focusing on the possible association between HBV infection and carotid atherosclerosis**

Country [Author, year]	N Patients	HBsAg +ve (n, %)	Assessment of CHB	<u>Association with subclinical atherosclerosis</u>	
				Atheroma plaques	IMT
<b>Japan</b> [Ishizaka 2002] <sup>[4]</sup>	4686	40 (0.9%)	No	Yes	NA
<b>Germany</b> [Volzke, 2004] <sup>[1]</sup>	4266 <sup>1</sup>	15 (0.4%)	No	No	Trend (p=0.09)
<b>Italy</b> [Bilora, 2002] <sup>[2]</sup>	98	6 (6.1%)	No	No <sup>2</sup>	NA
<b>Taiwan</b> [Yang, 2007] <sup>[3]</sup>	508	87 (17.1%)	No	No	No
<b>Italy</b> [Targher, 2007] <sup>[5]</sup>	215 <sup>3</sup>	35 (16.3%)	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Current study</b>	201	201 (100%)	Yes	Yes	Yes

CHB, chronic hepatitis B; IMT, intima-media thickness; HBV, hepatitis B virus; N, number; NA, not available.

<sup>1</sup>Carotid ultrasound was only performed in patients older than 45 years (n=2289); <sup>2</sup>Data from patients with HBV and HCV coinfection (anti-HCV positive) were analysed together; <sup>3</sup>This cohort included 60 biopsy-proven NAFLD cases, 35 HBV, 60 HCV and 60 control

## REFERENCES

- 1 **Völzke H**, Schwahn C, Wolff B, Mentel R, Robinson DM, Kleine V, Felix SB, John U. Hepatitis B and C virus infection and the risk of atherosclerosis in a general population. *Atherosclerosis* 2004; **174**: 99-103 [PMID: 15135257 DOI: 10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2004.01.010]
- 2 **Bilora F**, Rinaldi R, Boccioletti V, Petrobelli F, Girolami A. Chronic viral hepatitis: a prospective factor against atherosclerosis. A study with echo-color Doppler of the carotid and femoral arteries and the abdominal aorta. *Gastroenterol Clin Biol* 2002; **26**: 1001-1004 [PMID: 12483132]
- 3 **Yang KC**, Chen MF, Su TC, Jeng JS, Hwang BS, Lin LY, Liau CS, Lee YT. Hepatitis B virus seropositivity is not associated with increased risk of carotid atherosclerosis in Taiwanese. *Atherosclerosis* 2007; **195**: 392-397 [PMID: 17134707 DOI: 10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2006.10.018]
- 4 **Ishizaka N**, Ishizaka Y, Takahashi E, Toda Ei E, Hashimoto H, Ohno M, Nagai R, Yamakado M. Increased prevalence of carotid atherosclerosis in hepatitis B virus carriers. *Circulation* 2002; **105**: 1028-1030 [PMID: 11877348 DOI: 10.1161/hc0902.105718]
- 5 **Targher G**, Bertolini L, Padovani R, Rodella S, Arcaro G, Day C. Differences and similarities in early atherosclerosis between patients with non-alcoholic steatohepatitis and chronic hepatitis B and C. *J Hepatol* 2007; **46**: 1126-1132 [PMID: 17335930 DOI: 10.1016/j.jhep.2007.01.021]