

Dr. Ferruccio Bonino

April 10, 2013

Editor-in-Chief

*The World Journal of Gastroenterology*



Dear Dr. Ferruccio Bonino

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 1780-edited.doc).

**Title:** Hepatitis B or C viral infection and risk of pancreatic cancer: a meta-analysis of observational studies

**Author:** Jian-Hua Xu, Jin-Jian Fu, Xiao-Li Wang, Jia-Yong Zhu, Xiao-Hua Ye and Si-Dong Chen

**Name of Journal:** *The World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 1780

We thank the editors and reviewers for their constructive suggestions and comments. We have tried our best to revise the manuscript based on your suggestions. Below please find our point-by-point response to the comments.

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers.

Reviewer of **02459098** comments:

I think that the main limitation of this study is that the authors did not judge the quality of the studies included in the meta-analysis for example by using the Newcastle-Ottawa scoring for cohort studies.

**Reply:** We appreciate the reviewer's comments. The Newcastle-Ottawa quality assessment

Scale was introduced to assess the quality of studies included in this manuscript. In addition, stratified analyses were carried out to adjust confounding factors. Please find changes in the revised manuscript.

Reviewer of **00033045** comments:

(1) **The manuscript did not assess the quality of studies which were included in the meta-analysis. For observational studies (cohort or case-control), the Newcastle-Ottawa scale (Wells GA, Shea B, O'Connell D, et al. The Newcastle-Ottawa Scale (NOS) for assessing the quality of nonrandomised studies in meta-analyses) may be used for quality assessment and would be nice to include in the manuscript.**

**Reply:** We appreciate the reviewer's comments. The Newcastle-Ottawa quality assessment Scale was introduced to assess the quality of studies included in this manuscript. In addition, stratified analyses were carried out to adjust confounding factors. Please find changes in the revised manuscript.

(2) **- Anti-HBs - / Anti-HBc + Analysis: It is very difficult to interpret a pooled analysis of only 2 studies. Please address this in the limitations of the study.**

**Reply:** We appreciate the reviewer's comments. Comments about - Anti-HBs - / Anti-HBc + analysis have been added in the revised version. Please see the change in Line 322 of the text.

(3) **MINOR COMMENTS/REVISION - Introduction - 2nd Paragraph - 6th sentence: Please change "A study" to "Studies" since the authors are referring to 2 studies.**

**Reply:** We appreciate reviewer's comments and apologize for the mistakes. The phrase "A study" has been changed to "Studies". Please see the change in Line 113 of the text.

(4) **Methods - Statistical Analysis: Please reference Begg's adjusted rank correlation test (if possible).**

**Reply:** We appreciate the reviewer's comments. Methods of Begg's adjusted rank correlation test have been added in the revised version. Please see the change in Line 175 of the text.

(5) Discussion – 6th Paragraph – 5th sentence: Please change “viruse” to “virus”

**Reply:** We appreciate reviewer’s comments and apologize for the mistakes. The phrase “viruse” has been changed to “virus”. Please see the change in Line 326 of the text.

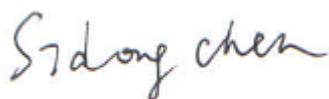
(6) References – #2: Please move journal name over to title

**Reply:** We appreciate reviewer’s comments and apologize for the mistakes. The references have been changed. Please see the revised manuscript for changes.

3 References and typesetting were corrected.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,



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