



# Baishideng Publishing Group Co., Limited

Flat C, 23/F., Lucky Plaza,  
315-321 Lockhart Road,  
Wan Chai, Hong Kong, China

## ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 1780

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

**Reviewer code:** 02459098

**Science editor:** Zhai, Huan-Huan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-01-06 11:24

**Date reviewed:** 2013-02-21 23:56

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input checked="" 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"/> Existed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a well written meta-analysis of 8 observational studies revealed a small association between Hep B and C infection and the risk of pancreatic cancer. It has to be said that this risk is small - the lower limit of the odds ratios were very close to 1. Most of the limitations in this study has been acknowledged by the authors however, 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. This could reveal that most of the studies included were in fact poor quality as only 4 adjusted for other risk factors for pancreatic cancer. If the authors decide to re-evaluate the quality of the studies, it would be worth reviewing it again to consider publication.



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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 1780

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

**Reviewer code:** 00033045

**Science editor:** Zhai, Huan-Huan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-01-06 11:24

**Date reviewed:** 2013-03-02 03:59

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	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"/> Existed	<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"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

**SUMMARY** This is a meta-analysis to investigate the relationship between hepatitis B or C infection and risk of pancreatic cancer. This meta-analysis is based upon 8 observational studies. It demonstrates that chronic HBV and HCV infection puts patients at higher risk of pancreatic cancer. This is a well-written, thorough meta-analysis on an important subject. **MAJOR COMMENTS/REVISION** - Study Quality: The manuscript did not access 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. - 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. - Limitations: This meta-analysis has quite a few limitations. However, the authors have done a nice job on identifying these limitations, tempering conclusions, and explaining cofounding biases. I am impressed. **MINOR COMMENTS/REVISION** - Introduction - 2nd Paragraph - 6th sentence: Please change "A study" to "Studies" since the authors are referring to 2 studies. - Methods - Statistical Analysis: Please reference Begg's adjusted rank correlation test (if possible). - Discussion - 6th Paragraph - 5th sentence: Please change "viruse" to "virus" - References - #2: Please move journal name over to title.