

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

November 27, 2014



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 13638-revised.doc).

Title: M Variations and mutations in the hepatitis B virus genome and their associations with clinical characteristics

Author: Yoshihiko Yano, Takeshi Azuma and Yoshitake Hayashi

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 13638

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 please elaborate on the role of these mutations on treatment outcomes- more detail needed for response to interferon but also mutations in context of nucleoside analogues. It is more useful and clinically relevant to also have some more detail regarding the different response rates and outcomes when it comes to the different genotypes.

→As the reviewer's comments, we included several clinical studies in view point of HBV genotypes. However, only a few clinical study using nucleotide analogues was available among genotypes. In addition, most references mentioned that the efficacy of nucleotide analogues was same among genotypes. The reason would be partly depending on the similarity of polymerase region among genotypes. So we add the supportive data about alignment (Figure 3).

2 A well written comprehensive manuscript but lack the more clinical data & clinical trials to show how the impact of these variation & mutations on the treatment. The references need to be summarized please delete the unneeded old one

→We also re-arranged the reference according to the reviewer's suggestion. We deleted the similar references as much as possible, and included several clinical studies, especially meta-analysis (Ref. 34 and 35)

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Yoshihiko Yano'.

Yoshihiko Yano, MD, PhD
Center for Infectious Diseases,
Graduate School of Medicine, Kobe University
7-5-1 Kusunoki-cho, Chuo-Ku, Kobe 650-0017, Japan
Fax: +81-78-382-6309
Email: yanoyo@med.kobe-u.ac.jp