

Athens, February 8, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 16100)

Title: Risk for hepatocellular carcinoma in the course of chronic HBV infection and the protective effect of therapy with nucleos (t)ide analogues

Author: Irene Rapti, Stephanos Hadziyannis

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 16100

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

1. Revision has been made according to the suggestion of the reviewer

a) The abstract was revised in order to clarify the aim of writing the review and in order to fulfill the journal requirements.

b) Accordingly, the introduction was revised and the aim of the review was added at the end of the section.

c) All corresponding citations covering the area of HCC risk factors have been thoroughly added.

d) The sub-headings in "the effect of long-term treatment with NAs on the development of HCC" has been deleted and substituted with the names of the NAs.

e) Ref 49 (now ref 70 in the revised manuscript) concerns patients treated with LAM, ETV or LdT and compared to CHB patients taking only a hepatoprotective agent. In this paper, no direct comparison between different lines of treatment exists, yet other papers which are included in the references have such comparisons, in order to satisfy the reader

f) A table (table 2) has been added containing all information needed for HCC risk scores.

g) The paragraph "In view of the above pooled data.." has been added to the conclusions.

h) A lot of citations and the mechanism for HCC has been withdrawn from the conclusions.

2. References were accordingly revised.

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

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Stephanos Hadziyannis