

Dear Prof. Lian-Sheng Ma,

Editor in Chief of *World Journal of Hepatology*

Thank you again for your kind invitation to submit for publication in *World Journal of Hepatology* our review article (ID number 02860708) “**HBV AND HCV INFECTION IN HEALTHCARE WORKERS**” (ESPS No.: 21697)

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

Editor points

All the Editor's points were accepted in the new manuscript

Reviewer No. 03020633:

Point 1. The content of epidemiology and risk factors of HBV and HCV infection in general population should be more concise. Because the theme is HBV and HCV infection in healthcare workers.

Answer: according to the suggestion of the review, the content of epidemiology and risk factors has been limited

Point 2. Risk factors and mode of HBV and HCV infection in healthcare workers should be stated with emphasis.

Answer: As suggested, the chapter “Risk factors and mode of HBV and HCV infection in healthcare workers” has been stated more with emphasis

Point 3. Prevention methods and the effectiveness for occupational exposure to HBV and HCV in healthcare workers should be reviewed in more detail.

Answer: in the new manuscript, we have reviewed in more detail the prevention methods and the effectiveness for occupational exposure to HBV and HCV

Point 4. Measures of remediation and the effectiveness after occupational exposure to HBV and HCV are important. The authors should add this content to the paper

Answer: following the suggestion of the reviewer, in the new manuscript we have added the measures of remediation and the effectiveness after occupational exposure to HBV and HCV

Reviewer No.02957000:

This manuscript is very interesting, well composed and written. I recommend publication without further revisions

Answer: We thank the reviewer for the kind comment

Reviewer No. 01464745:

This review on the pivotal problem of prevention of HBV and HCV infections in healthcare workers is clearly written and well documented, thus this referee recommends its fast publication without any modification

Answer: We thank the reviewer for the kind comment

Reviewer No. 00183339:

The manuscript is well presented and of interest. It is valuable review and can contribute to increase the knowledge of this topic. All parts of the manuscript are well organized, and valuable conclusions are provided

Answer: We thank the reviewer for the kind comment

Reviewer No. 00053786:

Point 1: On Page 7, lines 21-22, ...genotype G and H in Mexico and some countries in Central America, needs references: HBV endemicity in Mexico is associated with HBV genotypes H and G, World J Gastroenterol. 2013 Sep 7;19(33):5446-53 doi:10.3748/wjg.v19.i33.5446/ Distribution of HBV genotypes F and H in Mexico and Central America, Antivir Ther. 2013;18(3 Pt B):475-84 doi:10.3851/IMP2605

Answer: As suggested by the reviewer, we have added these references

Point 2 and 3:

Please note that in regards to low endemicity: Mexico should be added on page 8 line 12, since this country is geographically distinct from the rest of North, Central and South America. Reference: Distribution of HBV genotypes F and H in Mexico and Central America, Antivir Ther. 2013;18(3 Pt B):475-84, doi:10.3851/IMP2605

In regards to the major risks factors for acquiring HBV infection in areas with a low prevalence..... The authors should consider mentioning that occult hepatitis B infection may hinder detection of the virus in populations such as Mexico and other countries of Latin America. Immunogenetic differences in the response to HBV infection among native versus caucasian populations may mask the true prevalence. Reference: HBV infection in Latin America: a genomic medicine approach doi: 10.3748/wjg.v20.i23.7181

Answer: we are in agreement with the reviewer. Thus, we have modified the manuscript

The manuscript has been read and approved by all the authors and has not been submitted for publication to other journals. We also declare that we have no conflict of interest in connection with this paper.

Neither the manuscript nor part of it has been published or is under consideration for publication elsewhere.

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We sincerely hope that the enclosed manuscript can be accepted for publication in World Journal of Hepatology.

Sincerely yours

Nicola Coppola