

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



August 25, 2012

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 2041-review.doc).

**Title:** HMGB1 Gene Polymorphisms In Patients With Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection

**Author:** Chunqing Deng, Guohong Deng, Yuming Wang

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 2041

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

1 Format has been updated

Answer: Yes.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) The 1176 G/C polymorphism of HMGB1 needs to be better described. Where it is located in the sequence HMGB1, and whether it affects HMGB1 transcription need to be clarified. The rationale of studying this polymorphism also needs to be spelled out. Any other findings about this polymorphism need to be discussed as well.

Answer: The 1176 G/C polymorphism of HMGB1 is located in the intron 4 of HMGB1 gene. In another study, we having successfully cloned and analyzed 154 bp nucleotides in intron 4 near the fourth exon-intron boundary successfully, we found that region contains sequences 1176 G/C polymorphism characteristic of an enhancer by using PGL3 reporter gene systems. We had demonstrated that the SNP 1176 G/C could affect on the function. Furthermore, this activity was increased by the SNP: G C change in position 1176 , providing the basis for molecular investigations of the HMGB1 gene in HBV infection. Subsequent report would offer this investigation.

(2) Have the authors looked at other HMGB1 polymorphisms and find any association? Have the authors looked at polymorphisms of other proinflammation mediators on the same cohort? Is there any functional data suggesting that HMGB1 is involved in hepatitis B virus infection? These should be addressed with additional discussion.

Answer: we have looked at other HMGB1 polymorphisms, but not find any obvious association. on the same cohort , we had looked at polymorphisms of other proinflammation mediators,such as IL-10(JOURNAL OF VIRAL HEPATITIS,2009), CXCL10(GASTROENTEROLOGY,2008). Some previous studies have been reported that HMGB1 is involved in hepatitis B virus infection especially in the progression of liver cirrhosis.

(3) Description of the results is too brief and should be elaborated more. There are quite a few grammar mistakes that should be corrected

Answer: It has been revised and corrected as you suggested.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Answer: References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

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