Biostatistics statement: All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS software for Windows (Version 16 SPSS Inc, Chicago, IL, United States). *P*-values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant. Statistical analyses were performed with Mann-Whitney test for comparing autophagy marker (punctate LC3β), apoptosis marker (cleaved caspase-3), and UPR marker (BIP) between HBV- and HCV-infected cells and adjacent non-infected cells. Statistical analyses were performed with Kruskal-Wallis test for relation of stage (ordinal variable) and grade (ordinal variable) liver biopsies of HBV and HCV patients with autophagy marker (punctate LC3β), apoptosis marker (cleaved caspase-3), and UPR marker (BIP). According to our small sample size, we obligate to use non-parametric test, so we selected Kruskal-Wallis test. It is noteworthy to mention that Kruskal-Wallis test is equivalent nonparametric test of "one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA)".

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