



**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

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

**Manuscript NO:** 49851

**Title:** Tenofovir is a more suitable treatment than entecavir for chronic hepatitis B patients carrying naturally occurring rtM204I mutations

**Reviewer’s code:** 03486791

**Reviewer’s country:** China

**Science editor:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-06-17 06:31

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-06-18 02:52

**Review time:** 20 Hours

| SCIENTIFIC QUALITY                                     | LANGUAGE QUALITY  | CONCLUSION                                 | PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS                                  |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent            | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept            | Peer-Review:  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | (High priority)                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good                 |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept | <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing  | (General priority)                         | Peer-reviewer’s expertise on the topic of the manuscript: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision    | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced                         |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General               |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection         | <input type="checkbox"/> No expertise                     |
|  |   |  | Conflicts-of-Interest:                                    |
|  |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes                              |
|  |   |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                    |

**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Spontaneous rtM204I mutations can exist in NAs-naïve patients with CHB genotype C infection. In this study, the authors aimed to investigate prevalence of the naturally-occurring rtM204I mutations in treatment-naïve CHB genotype C2 patients



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and their influence on antiviral therapy. 410 individuals were included in the study. They found that seventeen samples (4.1%) were identified as carrying rtM204I variants. They have concluded that the newly-developed LNA-RT-PCR method could detect naturally-occurring rtM204I-mutations with high-sensitivity and mutations were more frequent in patients with liver-fibrosis. Tenofovir is more suitable than entecavir for CHB-patients infected with naturally-occurring rtM204I-mutations. I think this is a good study, and the manuscript is well written; also the tables are all appropriate.

#### **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

##### ***Google Search:***

- The same title
- Duplicate publication
- Plagiarism
- No

##### ***BPG Search:***

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**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

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

**Manuscript NO:** 49851

**Title:** Tenofovir is a more suitable treatment than entecavir for chronic hepatitis B patients carrying naturally occurring rtM204I mutations

**Reviewer's code:** 01221188

**Reviewer's country:** Japan

**Science editor:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-06-17 07:49

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-06-19 07:29

**Review time:** 1 Day and 23 Hours

| SCIENTIFIC QUALITY                                | LANGUAGE QUALITY   | CONCLUSION   | PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS                      |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept                    | Peer-Review:                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language                 | (High priority)                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | polishing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of                | (General priority)                                 | Peer-reviewer's expertise on the              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not          | language polishing   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision | topic of the manuscript:                      |
| publish   | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection                 | <input type="checkbox"/> General              |
|   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> No expertise         |
|   |  |  | Conflicts-of-Interest:                        |
|   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes                  |
|   |  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No        |

**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Choe et al evaluated the association between rtM204I variants and clinical characteristics. This study shows that rtM204I variants are associated with the progression of liver fibrosis and the poor response of NA treatment. Minor revisions 1) The authors



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should describe the hypothesis of the reason why rtM204 I variants are associated with liver fibrosis and NA treatment failure. 2) The patient number of individual group should be described in Table 7. 3) The names of drugs with the low genetic barrier should be written in Table 7. 4) The details of NA treatment should briefly be described in the text.

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**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

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

**Manuscript NO:** 49851

**Title:** Tenofovir is a more suitable treatment than entecavir for chronic hepatitis B patients carrying naturally occurring rtM204I mutations

**Reviewer's code:** 02540510

**Reviewer's country:** India

**Science editor:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-06-22 09:47

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-06-22 10:09

**Review time:** 1 Hour

| SCIENTIFIC QUALITY                                     | LANGUAGE QUALITY   | CONCLUSION                                 | PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS                                  |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing     | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept            | Peer-Review:  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing           | (High priority)                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good                 |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept | <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing | (General priority)                         | Peer-reviewer's expertise on the topic of the manuscript: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision    | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced                         |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General               |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection         | <input type="checkbox"/> No expertise                     |
|  |  |  | Conflicts-of-Interest:                                    |
|  |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes                              |
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**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The study is interesting and novel. The data has been presented well and merits publication



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**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

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

**Manuscript NO:** 49851

**Title:** Tenofovir is a more suitable treatment than entecavir for chronic hepatitis B patients carrying naturally occurring rtM204I mutations

**Reviewer's code:** 03269732

**Reviewer's country:** China

**Science editor:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-06-18 09:31

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-06-24 12:48

**Review time:** 6 Days and 3 Hours

| SCIENTIFIC QUALITY                                | LANGUAGE QUALITY  | CONCLUSION   | PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS                                  |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept                    | Peer-Review:  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | (High priority)                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good            |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing  | (General priority)                                 | Peer-reviewer's expertise on the topic of the manuscript: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish  | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision            | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced                         |
|   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General               |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection                 | <input type="checkbox"/> No expertise                     |
|   |   |  | Conflicts-of-Interest:                                    |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes                              |
|   |   |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                    |

**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

In this paper, a new LNA-RT-PCR method was used to investigate prevalence of the naturally-occurring rtM204I mutations in treatment-naïve CHB genotype C2 patients and their influence on antiviral therapy. This study confirmed that rtM204I-mutations



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were more frequent in patients with liver-fibrosis. Tenofovir is more suitable than entecavir for CHB-patients infected with naturally-occurring rtM204I-mutations. The article is not innovative and has a statistical error. Recommendations are listed in the commentary to the article.

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