

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 60189

**Title:** New therapeutic options for persistent low-level viremia in patients with chronic HBV infection: Increase of entecavir dosage

**Reviewer's code:** 04573581

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Assistant Professor, Lecturer

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Egypt

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-10-21

**Reviewer chosen by:** Ya-Juan Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-11-19 08:32

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-11-27 14:29

**Review time:** 8 Days and 5 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

1) In page 5, line 22, the authors claim that “Unfortunately, these developing new therapies also are not designed to eradicate the intrahepatic covalently closed circular DNA (cccDNA) or integrated HBV DNA”. This is not accurate as there are several treatments currently in trial for cccDNA and integrated HBV DNA as reported by Geish R, 2020 for example and other reviews. These treatment options should be discussed and explain why would increasing the dose of Enticavir would be superior. 2) The review needs more updated references and more in text citations. The number of references used in the past 10 years is little given that the authors are suggesting new treatment module based on literature review. 3) The authors highlighted the efficacy of entecavir at higher doses by providing higher AUC values in plasma and in page 14 line 1 they mention “by increasing the dose over 1.0 mg/day might improve the antiviral efficacy”. What is meant by antiviral efficacy? Was the mechanism by which entecavir might target cccDNA or integrated DNA examined? 4) In page 14, line 27, the authors are discussing a study by Liu et al. as a reference for suggesting increasing the dose of entecavir for LLV, however in the study, this conclusion was never reached. This paragraph needs to be rephrased and supported by more studies. Minor comments 5) Page 6, line 34; “Therefore, the current study aimed to discover a viable way to improve the antiviral effect of entecavir by increasing the dose and prolonging the treatment time”. It should be changed to “suggest” or “shed the light on” not “discover”. 6) The manuscript needs grammatical and spelling revision.

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

**Manuscript NO:** 60189

**Title:** New therapeutic options for persistent low-level viremia in patients with chronic HBV infection: Increase of entecavir dosage

**Reviewer's code:** 05261629

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

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<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Interesting and well written paper