

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS

December 5, 2020

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 60389.doc).

Title: Negative conversion of autoantibody profile in chronic hepatitis B: A case report

Author: Xun Zhang, Dong-Mei Zhao, Qin-Xiu Xie

Name of Journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 60389

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

1.Format has been updated

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

Replies to Reviewer 1

Specific Comments

1. TITLE: The title reflects the major contents of the article, however "and literature review" is better to be deleted.

**Answer:**Yes, I agree with your comment and have deleted the words "and literature review" .

2. ABSTRACT it gives a clear delineation of the research background, case report including important data and conclusion, however, it was stated in case summary that the patient was with no past medical history, although she was positive for HBVsAg for more than ten years. This has to be revised and corrected.

**Answer:**Yes, I agree with your comment and make the corresponding modification. The female had a history of asymptomatic hepatitis B virus carriers for more than ten years.

3. INTRODUCTION: It is short & informative. The last line within the last paragraph, the patient was described as patient with chronic hepatitis B. This has to be clarified and unified all over the text.

**Answer:**Yes, I agree with your comment and make the corresponding modifications. I have noticed this problem and modified all over the text which the spot described as patient with chronic hepatitis B.

4. CASE REPORT: Well presented however, some important issues are better to be considered: • History of past illness: The patient was described as a carrier of HBV for more than ten years. Please unify within the text the actual case; carrier or chronic HBV or with no past medical history. In order to satisfy the reader, the following have to be considered: o liver status within this 10 years

has to be clarified o Any related past intervention & their outcomes o Measurement of autoantibodies if any • Laboratory Investigations:

Testing for HCV exclusion is missing and has to be added.

Table (1): Both reference range as well as unit of measurements are missing for tested parameters & thus have to be added. • Imaging examinations Figures: 1-4: Full detailed legend is missing • Outcome And Follow-Up Duration of antiviral therapy is missing Follow up every 6 m for how long and what are the outcomes.

**Answer:** Yes, I agree with your comment and make the corresponding modifications. I have added and made a statement that the patient had a past medical history of being a carrier of hepatitis B virus for more than ten years without antiviral treatment and hepatitis C virus (HCV) antibody was negative. I have added all the reference range as well as unit of measurements for tested parameters. The pathological pictures were explained in detail according to the requirement. Duration of antiviral therapy is up to five years after discharge and with regular follow ups every 6 month.

5. DISCUSSION Well organized, an overall theoretical analysis is given and conclusions are scientifically valuable.

Answer: Yes, I agree with your comments.

6. REFERENCES: • Finally, relevant and sufficient references,

especially the most current literatures have been cited. • The authors have to follow journal style in writing this section

Answer: Yes, I agree with your comments and make the corresponding modifications about journal style of the references.

## Replies to Reviewer 2

The second review's composition comment on the manuscript and my answer

### Specific Comments

1. Therefore, the authors need to provide a careful review on the differences between viral immune mediated hepatitis and autoimmune hepatitis. Authors need to comment on the antibody profile of the patient and to what they point to also what are the auto-antibodies not surveyed though important for differentiation and those done and were negative or not mentioned.

**Answer:**Yes, I agree with your comments and make the corresponding modifications. The relevant specific autoantibodies of autoimmune hepatitis and differences between two types of hepatitis have been elaborated in the discussion of Paragraph 3.

2. Additionally, the authors need to provide full comment on the

provided histo-pathological sections in the given images and explain and compare in the manuscript the differences between the histopathology with AIH, chronic viral hepatitis and the given images that aid that might further confirm its being immune mediated form of viral hepatitis. the frequency of similar reported cases need to be discussed and how common is it to find immune mediated viral hepatitis as a part of the HBV profile. The effect of therapy if any similar cases reported need to be explicitly discussed. Minimal language and grammar errors need to be corrected.

**Answer:**Yes, We agree with your comments and make the corresponding modifications.First we have made comment on the histopathological of given pictures.Second,we consulted some literatures to discuss the frequency of antibodies in chronic hepatitis and corrected the minimal language and grammar errors.

### Replies to Reviewer 3

The third review's composition comment on the manuscript and my answer

### Specific Comments

I consider it necessary to publish it. However, I would like to see the entire text of the article. This is due to the fact that I have been

dealing with chronic hepatitis B for a long time, and back in the 80-90s of the twentieth century, it was said about cases of an aggressive course of chronic hepatitis B, which was treated with glucocorticosteroids. There is no review of these cases and the explanation for them. I want to see it. Thanks.

**Answer:**We have considered your comment and searched the cases which was treated with glucocorticosteroids in literature database. It is true that such studies have been found in literature database, we had wrote in our discussion. And according to the current guidelines, the treatment of chronic hepatitis B is still mainly treated with interferon and oral antiviral drugs.