

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 62307

**Title:** Exploration of Nucleos(t)ide analogues cessation in chronic hepatitis B patients with HBeAg loss

**Reviewer's code:** 05492002

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-14

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-01-16 10:42

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-01-25 09:25

**Review time:** 8 Days and 22 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 Grade E: Do not publish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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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**

In the manuscript “Exploration of Nucleos(t)ide analogues cessation in chronic hepatitis B patients with HBeAg loss”, the authors tried to investigate the outcomes and factors associated with HBeAg-positive CHB patients with HBeAg loss (without HBeAb) after cessation of NAs. They performed an observational cohort of patients discontinued NAs therapy and underwent regular follow-up. They conclude that HBeAg-positive CHB patients with HBeAg loss may be able to discontinue NAs therapy after long-term consolidation. HBsAg at cessation <100 IU/ml predicts SVR after NAs cessation. Careful monitoring, especially in the early stages after cessation, should be adopted to ensure favorable outcomes. The topic of this work is interesting. The authors conclude discontinue NAs therapy should aim to outcomes and related factors in patients with HBeAg-positive CHB with HBeAg loss (without HBeAb). I suggest the authors give more details on the relationship between HBeAg loss and discontinue NAs therapy in both their retrospective study and literature review.

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

**Manuscript NO:** 62307

**Title:** Exploration of Nucleos(t)ide analogues cessation in chronic hepatitis B patients with HBeAg loss

**Reviewer's code:** 05491997

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** United States

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-14

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-01-15 04:09

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**Review time:** 10 Days and 5 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input 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**

NAs are primary therapeutic agents for HBV infection, they significantly improved outcomes in patients with CHB. Current guidelines recommend that patients with HBeAg seroconversion discontinue NAs after relatively long-term consolidation therapy. A considerable proportion of patients fail to achieve HBeAg seroconversion after the long-term loss of HBeAg, even if HBsAg loss occurs. Therefore, it remains unclear whether NAs can be discontinued in this subset of patients. Some patients in the authors previous cohort discontinued NAs after achieving HBeAg loss for long periods because of personal decisions and were not included in the previous analyses, while some maintained SVR. Therefore, the purpose of this present study was to determine the outcomes and related factors in patients with HBeAg-positive CHB with HBeAg loss (without HBeAb) after NAs cessation. The current study included patients who discontinued NAs after achieving HBeAg loss (without HBeAb) for long periods since 2001. And they concluded that these patients may be able to discontinue NAs therapy after long-term consolidation. Their analysis helped in therapy for HBeAg-positive patients with CHB. The methods of data analysis are very clear, and the results are presented well. The manuscript is written clearly and it's in acceptable form without any major changes.

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

**Manuscript NO:** 62307

**Title:** Exploration of Nucleos(t)ide analogues cessation in chronic hepatitis B patients with HBeAg loss

**Reviewer's code:** 05492000

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Doctor, Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-14

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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
<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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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**

I read the manuscript written by Xue Y and others with great interest. In my honest opinion, the topic is interesting and the retrospectively studies novel enough to attract the readers' attention. Nevertheless, the authors should clarify some points and improve the discussion citing relevant and novel key articles about the topic. I have just some minor comments. 1. Please replace figures with higher resolution images. 2. English language needs correction.