

Answering the Reviewers

Lian-Sheng Ma,
Science Editor
Company Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Office
World Journal of Gastroenterology
Baishideng Publishing Group Inc

Dear Lian-Sheng Ma,

Re: World Journal of Gastroenterology Manuscript No: 63616

We would like to thank the editor and the reviewers for their time and effort in evaluating our manuscript. We appreciate the opportunity to have submitted our work. We attempted to address each of the reviewers' comments, point by point, and hope they are adequate in this regard.

Reviewer #1

1. In Page 7, "HBeAg-" was changed to "HBeAg-negative"
2. In Page 11, "per se" was substituted with "alone" without any change in the meaning
3. The content of "HBV REACTIVATION" was characterized a little thin. We tried to expand and to better delineate the impact of HBV reactivation and describe the deleterious consequences of this event.

We cite the added text in page 8: "HBV reactivation in patients under immunosuppression may have a deleterious effect. HBV reactivation presents with a wide range of manifestations, from asymptomatic, mild hepatitis to acute liver failure and death. In some cases, HBV reactivation precipitates the induction of chronic hepatitis B, potentially leading to liver cirrhosis and even hepatocellular carcinoma. Severe flares resulting in hepatic decompensation with an unfavorable outcome, commonly present with jaundice. A flare of hepatitis is defined as an ALT level above 100 U/L and at least 3 times higher than baseline. Patients with acute liver failure as a result of HBV reactivation present with higher HBV viral loads and lower IgM anti-HBc titers as compared with patients with new onset HBV-related acute liver failure[17]." And in page 9: "Moreover, acute liver failure in patients under immunosuppression is associated with poor short-term prognosis and reduced 21-day overall survival compared with immunocompetent patients". Moreover, two more references were added regarding the subject of HBV reactivation number 17 (Dao et al.) and 25 (Karvellas et al.).

Sincerely,

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