

Answering reviewers

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Viral Hepatitis: milestones, unresolved issues, and future goals

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Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to revise our manuscript. I edited the manuscript according to the reviewer's comments and the BPG guidelines for Review articles. Given their size, I added Figures 2 and 3 as JPG in the PowerPoint file "64577-Figures", and the original files (made using Adobe Illustrator) in "64577-Supplementary-Material".

Dr. P. Torre

Specific Comments to Authors: Dear authors, I carefully read the manuscript, 'Viral Hepatitis: milestones, unresolved issues, and future goals', and commented as follows: The author reviewed viral hepatitis C, viral hepatitis B, viral hepatitis D, viral hepatitis A, and viral hepatitis E. In the chapter on viral hepatitis C, authors focused on the current antiviral treatments and introduced treatment options for refractory hepatitis C. In the second chapter of viral hepatitis B and D, authors focus on new drugs for treating hepatitis D. In the third and fourth chapters, authors introduce the pathogenesis and treatment of hepatitis A and hepatitis E, respectively. In the study of hepatitis C and hepatitis D, more European literatures are cited. Compared with Asians, it is more difficult for Caucasians to treat hepatitis C. Italians may have a higher rate of hepatitis D infection. The literatures show that for treating patient with hepatitis B, the interferon response rate in the Asian population is significantly lower than that in the Caucasian; the nucleot(s)ide resistant mutation in Asian population is higher than other races. These differences are caused by genetic differences between Caucasians with Asians. Thus, the physicians in the Asia-Pacific region who read this article may cause confusion. There is no need to modify the manuscript in response to the above comments. Agree to accept the paper. Mini error: The first line on page 21, intravenous administration, should be changed to subcutaneous injection. Dr. Yin GQ

I added the following sentence to the paragraph entitled "Currently available therapies, goals and unresolved issues": *"The response to anti-HBV therapy and its effect on liver-related outcomes, such as the onset of HCC, were found to vary also by ethnicity (e.g., Asian patients are less likely to experience HBsAg loss following NA therapy than Caucasian ones)".*

I changed *"intravenous administration"* to *"subcutaneous injection"*.