

Reviewer #1:

Specific Comments to Authors: The paper entitled "Genotype E: The neglected genotype of hepatitis B virus" deals with a very relevant and important question in the hepatitis B field. The review is nicely demonstrating the lack of knowledge on Genotype E but also summarize the data already obtained.

1. There are minor points that could be added, such as variability of African genotype A that was underestimated and is a fast moving field, the prevalence of deletion variants in Pre-S2 that is increasing HCC risk for genotype A (see recent papers).

Thank you for your input. The information has been added into the manuscript. Please see paragraph 2 and the last sentence of paragraph 4 under "GENOTYPE E IN AFRICA AND ITS ORIGIN and paragraph 4 under VARIANTS AND MUTANTS IN GENOTYPE E

2. Concerning higher viral loads for genotype E I think this is a very difficult question, because the samples that can be classified into genotypes must all have a certain level of viral load. As in The Gambia the majority do not correspond to this criteria (<50 IU / mL), it is important to know if these inactive carriers are infected with E or A will have a huge impact on this issue. At least the question may be discussed. The paper is well written and comprehensive to a large audience on a topic of interest.

Thank you for your input. The information has been added into the manuscript. Critique of the Gambian study which showed a higher percentage of genotype E infected individual and a cohort of the population showing undetectable levels of HBV viral loads is difficult to decipher as the population that was genotyped is different from the cohort that was assayed for the viral loads. We have however highlighted this limitation within the review. Please see the end of paragraph 3 under NATURAL HISTORY OF HBV GENOTYPE E.

Apologies for not referring to pages and line numbers as these are not available in the submitted manuscript!