

Dear Editor,

We revised our manuscript entitled "Correlation of HBs Antigen Expression in Liver Biopsies of Patients with HBV Hepatitis with Clinical, Histopathological and Biochemical Parameters: a comprehensive study" (Msn: 68211) according to the comments. Following revisions have been made:

1. The reviewer asked why all patients in this study started ETV antiviral therapy 3 months after liver biopsy, since most patients had elevated ALT.

In our opinion, this comment arises from the statement "Three months after the liver biopsies, all patients were treated with entecavir (0.5 mg) and followed up at three-month intervals" in the Materials and methods section of the manuscript. (study design, paragraph 3. Third sentence).

In fact, as the reviewer emphasized, most of the patients in our study group had elevated ALT (an important indication for antiviral therapy) at the time of liver biopsy and these cases were subjected to antiviral treatment immediately after the biopsy. However, in other cases, this treatment was started after the increase in ALT levels (three months) in the post-biopsy follow-up. Therefore, with this sentence we aimed to indicate that treatment was started within three months to all patients. However, the omission of the word "Within" at the beginning of the sentence during the spelling of the manuscript caused this severe change in expression. This original statement is " Within three months after the liver biopsies, all patients were treated with entecavir (0,5 mg) and followed up at three-month intervals."

In line with this comment and to avoid confusion the statements "Forty-nine cases with elevated ALT levels underwent antiviral therapy. Ninety-one patients with low ALT levels received this treatment based on the increase in ALT levels in the first three months of follow-up. Accordingly, all patients were treated with entecavir (0.5 mg) within three months after the liver biopsies and followed up at three-month intervals" have been added instead the previous statement.

2. We uploaded separately all tables

3. The original Pictures are uploaded as Power point files
4. You stated that the core tip is too long and should not be more than 100 words.
Therefore, this section is shortened according to your decision.