

We thank the reviewer for their help to improve our manuscript. We have addressed all comments and have highlighted them below.

Reviewer #1: D'souza et al. reviewed molecular mechanisms of viral hepatitis induced HCC. 1. Authors well described the viral factors. 2. Authors should describe the host factors more. 3. See: Int J Mol Sci. 2019 Mar 18;20(6):1358. doi: 10.3390/ijms20061358.

We thank you for your comments and help.

- Under the section titled: **CHRONIC INFLAMMATION-MEDIATED BY VIRAL HEPATITIS** – we have added a sub-section titled: **Cirrhosis is a Major Risk Factor for HCC Development**. Under this sub-section we have discussed host dependent factors that cause fibrosis and eventual cirrhosis leading to increased risk of developing HCC. We have cited and reviewed the paper suggested by the reviewer (Kanda et al., 2019) and have pointed the readers to see their paper for a comprehensive overview regarding host-factors that mediate cirrhosis leading to HCC.
- Host factors that affect development of HCC have been described in the epidemiology section “Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) represents 90% of all liver cancer cases and the risk factors are well defined: viral infection with HBV, (54% of all HCCs) and/or HCV (31% of all HCCs), cirrhosis (80% of all HCCs), high alcohol consumption, obesity, genetic disorders such as hemochromatosis, exposure to aflatoxins, sex (male) and older age (50+) [4-7].”
- Host immune mediated factors leading to liver damage and eventual HCC has been described in the section: **CHRONIC INFLAMMATION-MEDIATED BY VIRAL HEPATITIS**.
- Somatic mutation development regarding the host have also been described in the section titled: **Common Somatic Mutations in Progressive HCC Tumors**.

Comments from the Editorial office: **(1) Science Editor:** 1 Scientific quality: This is a review of the viral hepatitis and hepatocellular carcinoma. The topic is within the scope of the WJG. (1) Classification: Grade B; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: The manuscript reviewed the molecular mechanisms of viral hepatitis induced HCC. Authors well described the viral factors. Authors should describe the host factors more. The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered; and (3) Format: There are 7 figures. A total of 197 references are cited, including 20 references published in the last 3 years. There is 1 self-citation. 2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade B. 3 Academic norms and rules: The authors need to provide the signed Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and Copyright License Agreement. No academic misconduct was found in the CrossCheck detection and Bing search. 4 Supplementary comments: This is an unsolicited manuscript. The study was performed with 5 financial supports. The topic has not previously been published in the WJG. The corresponding author has not published articles in the BPG. 5 Issues raised: (1) I found the authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s); and (2) I found the authors did not provide the original figures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor. 6 Re-Review: Required. 7 Recommendation: Conditionally accepted.

We thank you for your comments and help.

- 1) We have provided the signed Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and Copyright Licence Agreement.
- 2) We have provided a copy of all funding agency documents.
- 3) We have provided the original figures in a power-point document.
- 4) We have uploaded the revised manuscript.