

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**Manuscript NO:** 86203

**Title:** Hepatitis D virus dual-infection among Chinese hepatitis B patient related to hepatitis B surface antigen, hepatitis B virus DNA and age

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 03488616

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Egypt

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-06-06

**Reviewer chosen by:** Geng-Long Liu

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-07-02 08:39

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-07-12 13:01

**Review time:** 10 Days and 4 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Although the HBV/HDV coinfection was previously studied, the work include a very large sample size from Chinese patients which increase the credibility of the results, However, I have minor comments 1- The abstract lacks several information about age and gender distribution of the patient group, the results in the abstract lacks any information about relation of HBV/HDV coinfection with age, however it is mentioned in the title. 2- The title should include " in Chinese patients" as the the work is limited by the generality or generalization of results. 3- In the methods, blood collection nd serum separation should be mention in detail. Also, mention the amount of serum used for HBV DNA and HDV RNA extraction. 4- Other clinical and laboratory data e.g., liver function tests for the patients should be tabulated. The study also may benefit from correlation between the investigated parameters with lab data.

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 00030389

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Director

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Japan

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-06-06

**Reviewer chosen by:** Geng-Long Liu

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-08-01 04:35

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-08-03 06:56

**Review time:** 2 Days and 2 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
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<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors estimated HDV prevalence in 5594 patients with hepatitis B in Jilin Province, China. They found that the prevalence of anti-HDAg and HDV RNA among hepatitis B patient were 3.6% and 1.2%, respectively. The results are interesting, but the discussions are inadequate. Major comments #1. P10, lines 303-304. "the vaccine has been effective in preventing HBV transmission to newborns." The authors should present the prevalence of HBV in the people aged <30 years. They only showed that HBV patients aged <30 years are minority in the patients studied in this study. #2. P10, lines 308-312. "At that time, the prevalence of HBV and HDV was slightly higher among adults (currently in the 51-80 years age group) who were naturally infected, and most minors (currently in the 31-50 years age group) may have been infected through intrafamilial transmission. Since HDV requires HBV for secretion and infection [25], HBV vaccination is effective in preventing HDV transmission to newborns." The authors did not succeed to describe the reason why HDV prevalence in the patients aged >50 was higher than in those aged <50. #3. P10, lines 317-320. "As we previously reported, most hepatitis D patients in Jilin Province were infected with HDV Genotype 1 [18],

which secretes high virus titers with extremely delayed kinetics [26], providing patients with more time to respond to the virus.” The authors did not succeed to describe the reason why the positive rate of HDV RNA among anti-HDAg positive patients in Jilin Province is relatively low. #4. P10, 328-329. “Additionally, we found that among anti-HDAg positive patients, the HDV RNA positive rate was positively correlated with the HBsAg level, except for an abnormal increase in the 1□103-1□104 group.” This sentence is incorrect and not based on the statistical analysis. The true finding must be that the HDV RNA positive rate was positively correlated with the HBsAg level, except for an abnormal decrease in the 1□104-1.3□105 group. #5. P10, lines 329-333. The authors did not succeed to describe the reason why the levels of HBsAg and HBV DNA of the HDV-resolved patients were significantly lower than the HBV mono-infected patients. #6. P10, lines 345-346. In this study, the authors did not study the severity of the diseases. #7. P11, lines 362-364. In this study, the authors did not study the severity of the diseases. #8. P11. The authors should describe the conclusion based on the results of this study. #9. Abstract. “Hepatitis B patients with lower HBsAg levels appeared to be more capable of resolving HDV acute infections, while patients with higher anti-HDAg levels were more likely to test positive for HDV RNA.” This description is the interpretation of the authors. They should describe the results. #10. Abstract. The authors should describe the conclusion at the end of abstract. #11. The authors should present the clinical characteristic of the patients studied, especially antiviral treatment.

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 03647881

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor, Attending Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Taiwan

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-06-06

**Reviewer chosen by:** Geng-Long Liu

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-08-01 23:42

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-08-06 01:05

**Review time:** 4 Days and 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
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<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Better reference for HBV and HDV infected patients. No comments for this study.

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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**Reviewer's code:** 00030389

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Director

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Japan

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-06-06

**Reviewer chosen by:** Yu-Lu Chen

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-08-22 02:51

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-08-29 01:59

**Review time:** 6 Days and 23 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous





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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

In the revised version of their manuscript, the authors have properly answered to the points raised by the reviewer. I think that it is worth for publication in World journal of Gastroenterology.