1. As reviewer's comment, Rahmani et al (Molecular and Cellular Biology 2007, 27, 5499-5513) described that sorafenib induces cell death through a process involving induction of endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress. In addition, our research group (Cancer Letter 2014, 355, 61-69) presented a report that sorafenib overcomes the chemoresistance in HBx-expressing hepatocellular carcinoma cells through down-regulation of HBx protein stability and suppresses HBV gene expression. In above two studies, 10 M of sorafenib was used in the experiments, resulting in induction of cell death through ER stress. Less than 10 M level treatment of sorafenib might be applied to suppression of HBV gene expression without a significant cell death.

   We describe the explanation in the revised text.