



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

Manuscript NO: 42543

Title: Persistent Risk for New, Subsequent New and Recurrent Hepatocellular Carcinoma Despite Successful Anti-HBV Therapy and Tumor Ablation: The Need for HBV Cure

Reviewer's code: 00227403

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Jin-Lei Wang

Date sent for review: 2018-09-27

Date reviewed: 2018-10-02

Review time: 5 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The abstract should be rewritten in a more structured form and the references should be omitted. The references, in the Introduction should start with the number [1]. The authors



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should clarify, at the end of the introduction, the aim of their work. Since the authors discussed a well-known issue, to improve the text they should add a short session to discuss the evaluation of the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma in HBV cirrhotic patients assessed by the combination of new markers as miR-122 and PIVKA-II. They can read the interesting review published by Caviglia et al. in *Panminerva Med.* 2017 Dec;59(4):283-289.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

Manuscript NO: 42543

Title: Persistent Risk for New, Subsequent New and Recurrent Hepatocellular Carcinoma Despite Successful Anti-HBV Therapy and Tumor Ablation: The Need for HBV Cure

Reviewer’s code: 00002314

Reviewer’s country: Italy

Science editor: Jin-Lei Wang

Date sent for review: 2018-09-27

Date reviewed: 2018-10-10

Review time: 13 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
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		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting minireview whose core tip is that, after HBV infection, the risk for new, subsequent new and recurrent HCC persists even after over a decade of antiviral



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therapy and initial tumor ablation because of the inability of the current antiviral therapy to eliminate the cccDNA from the hepatocyte nucleus. Current research trends are also discussed. In my opinion, the following points should be clarified: 1) in its present form, the manuscript is both a case report and a narrative review. This creates some confusion on the specific aim, which should be more clearly stated in the abstract and introduction. It should be made clear that this is not a systematic review. In my view, original cases should be presented first, so that the subsequent discussion remains in a clearer frame. 2) when referring to drugs to treat HBV infection, the authors discuss mainly FDA-approved agents. I suggest adding a table with an international perspective, which includes other countries (clearly indicating which agents are already approved and are first-line, which are approved but now less frequently used because of the recent developments of the field, which are in the pipeline). 3) a more systematic international perspective should be used when reviewing the epidemiological data. The manuscript, in its present form, mentions epidemiological data and disease burden quoting data from different parts of the world without taking into account of considerable epidemiological differences. This international perspective could be useful to the readers of the journal and could be achieved by adding a table. 4) figures and tables in general are ok, but I would strongly recommend to add a figure illustrating the pharmacodynamics of the agents discussed in the second part of the manuscript. 5) references should be checked for consistency

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

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[Y] No

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[Y] No