

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Hepatology

**Manuscript NO:** 56368

**Title:** Hepatitis B virus detected in paper currencies in a densely populated city of India:  
A plausible source of horizontal transmission?

**Reviewer's code:** 02441070

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Doctor, Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-04-27

**Reviewer chosen by:** Ya-Juan Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-07-22 14:12

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-07-22 14:24

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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 Grade E: Do not publish
<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**

This paper report Hepatitis B virus detected in paper currencies in a densely populated city of India: a plausible source of horizontal HBV transmission. it would help to clarify a possible way for HBV transmission

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Hepatology

**Manuscript NO:** 56368

**Title:** Hepatitis B virus detected in paper currencies in a densely populated city of India:  
A plausible source of horizontal transmission?

**Reviewer's code:** 00722050

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** FRCP (C), MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-04-27

**Reviewer chosen by:** Ya-Juan Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-07-27 00:03

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-07-27 00:14

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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
<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 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



**Baishideng  
Publishing  
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** [bpgooffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgooffice@wjgnet.com)  
<https://www.wjgnet.com>

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

The authors of this manuscript on an excellent research topic have done a great job. These results may be highly relevant to COVID-19 infection. The recent significant rise in HBV infections in eastern India prompted the search for this virus in low denomination paper notes in a highly populated Indian city. Applying saliva on finger tips for enumerating currency notes is not only a common practice in the Indian subcontinent but common in many countries worldwide. Thus, this study is highly relevant. The authors discovered that, indeed, intact HBV particles are present in about 7.14% of the currencies and may enter either through the saliva or by microscopic skin defects. They have visual and DNA copy number confirmation of their hypothesis as well as several molecular biology tools. A small paragraph in the discussion on COVID-19 is crucial.

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**Name of journal:** World Journal of Hepatology

**Manuscript NO:** 56368

**Title:** Hepatitis B virus detected in paper currencies in a densely populated city of India:  
A plausible source of horizontal transmission?

**Reviewer's code:** 01548565

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Director

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-04-27

**Reviewer chosen by:** Ya-Juan Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-07-22 02:06

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-08-03 16:36

**Review time:** 12 Days and 14 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input checked="" 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



**Baishideng  
Publishing  
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** [bpgoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgoffice@wjgnet.com)  
<https://www.wjgnet.com>

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

Applying saliva on fingers for enumerating bank notes is a common practice in the Indian subcontinent. The aim of the study is to investigate if paper currency can be the plausible mode of horizontal transmission of hepatitis B virus infection. The author found that paper notes may be a potential source of “horizontal” transmission of this virus, especially if there are cuts/bruises on the oral mucous membrane or skin but it was practically not possible to experimentally demonstrate such transmission. Detection of potentially intact/viable and “occult” HBV from currency poses potential risk of silent transmission of this virus among the general population.. However ,this study lack of innovation and science, and not suitable for published in this Journal.

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Hepatology

**Manuscript NO:** 56368

**Title:** Hepatitis B virus detected in paper currencies in a densely populated city of India:  
A plausible source of horizontal transmission?

**Reviewer's code:** 00722050

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** FRCP (C), MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-04-27

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-08-19 12:49

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-08-19 12:53

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input 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>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



**Baishideng  
Publishing  
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** [bpgoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgoffice@wjgnet.com)  
**https://**[www.wjgnet.com](http://www.wjgnet.com)

The authors addressed the concerns of the reviewers properly.