



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 56743

**Title:** HBsAg and HBcrAg kinetics after adding pegylated-interferon to NAs in HBeAg-negative patients

**Reviewer's code:** 03257107

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-06-02

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-06-04 14:16

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-06-06 12:24

**Review time:** 1 Day and 22 Hours

<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 Grade E: Do not publish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 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



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

The study of Broquetas et al. evaluated the effect of Peg-IFN addition on HBsAg loss in HBV patients undergoing NAs therapy. The study is clear and easy to follow; however, there are some aspects that need to be ameliorated. Specific comments: Abstract: Add the dose of Peg-IFN Change “regresion” with “regression” Methods: At the end of page 5, you mention that patients with any malignancy and transplant (should be “transplanted”) patients were eligible for NAs monotherapy. These patients, in particular the immunosuppressed ones are not comparable with other patients without such comorbidities. Did you include in your NAs group these patients? Results: You excluded from your analysis some patients to obtain a better matching of the two groups. To my opinion this is a reductive statistical approach. It would have been more correct to use all your patients and then perform a multivariate analysis using as outcome HBsAg loss and including as variables the type of therapy, and the length of NAs therapy as well as the age of patients (both significantly different in the two groups). Discussion: The first part contains some repetitions regarding the results, and therefore should be shortened. Add to references 28 and 29 a new reference (doi: 10.3748/wjg.v20.i25.1). Figure 1: Eliminate the two boxes with “?” Table 1: In in the first column you repost “Age (years)” but in the second column you report the mean age and the range in parenthesis. Even if it is perceptible that the number in parenthesis represent the range, this should be reported in the bottom of the table. This is for age, liver enzymes and NA treatment duration. Table 2: See comments on table 1.



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 56743

**Title:** HBsAg and HBcrAg kinetics after adding pegylated-interferon to NAs in HBeAg-negative patients

**Reviewer's code:** 02861305

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Academic Research, Associate Professor, Doctor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-06-02

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-06-03 12:07

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-06-09 13:16

**Review time:** 6 Days and 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



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

The number of patients in the study were very low. The work would be more valuable if the number of patients are more in the study.



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 56743

**Title:** HBsAg and HBcrAg kinetics after adding pegylated-interferon to NAs in HBeAg-negative patients

**Reviewer's code:** 00159990

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-06-02

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-06-08 12:34

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-06-10 21:13

**Review time:** 2 Days and 8 Hours

<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 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



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

The manuscript which entitled "HBsAg and HBcrAg kinetics after the addition of pegylated interferon to nucleos(t)ids analogues in HBeAg-negative chronic hepatitis B patients" has been thoroughly reviewed. Although it is an important and qualified article, some major concerns identified in this manuscript are given below. In abstract section the dose of PEG-IFN should be added. Exclusion and inclusion criteria should be clearly expressed. If transplanted patients were included in this study, this should be clearly stated as this may affect the results of this study. Because of high risk of neuropathy, the combination of PEG-IFN with telbivudine is contraindicated. Accordingly, it should be explained why PEG-IFN was initiated in a patient who took telbivudine in this study. There are some misspelling in the manuscript. -Regression (page 2 and 7) should be corrected as regression - Peg-NA (page 2) should be corrected as Peg-IFN-NA Average age and distribution should be specified in Tables 1 and 2.



## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 56743

**Title:** HBsAg and HBcrAg kinetics after adding pegylated-interferon to NAs in HBeAg-negative patients

**Reviewer's code:** 00159990

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-06-02

**Reviewer chosen by:** Ji-Hong Liu (Technical Editor)

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-07-27 09:15

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-07-27 09:49

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input 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



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Dear author, I would like to thank you for your nice cooperation and satisfactory responses to questions.