



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Virology

Manuscript NO: 57835

Title: Chronic hepatitis B-associated liver disease in the context of HIV co-infection and underlying metabolic syndrome

Reviewer's code: 00504890

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: DSc, PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: South Africa

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Reviewer chosen by: Le Zhang

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-09-07 16:22

Reviewer performed review: 2020-09-08 21:04

Review time: 1 Day and 4 Hours

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 Grade A: Excellent [] Grade B: Very good [] Grade C: Good [] Grade D: Fair [] Grade E: Do not publish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



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript "Chronic liver disease following hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and HIV co-infection in the context of underlying metabolic syndrome: Current state of the art" by Amponsah-Dacosta et al. focuses on the chronic liver disease associated with the hepatitis B virus and human immunodeficiency virus coinfection. This is a well-organized review article, and it reads smoothly. Multiple literatures were reviewed and cited. It is known that HBV and HIV independently may play a role in liver disease. However, their role in the setting of coinfection was not detailly analyzed. Thus, this paper could serve a great recourse for the understanding of HBV- and HIV-associated liver disease in the context of underlying metabolic syndrome. This is a well written manuscript; however, addition of the is following work may help to strengthen it: It has been shown that interaction of HIV proteins gp120 and tat with epithelial cells may induce epithelial-mesenchymal transition, which may lead to the development of fibrosis (Lien et al., PLoS One. 2019 Dec 23;14(12):e0226343. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0226343. eCollection 2019.) Thus, HIV interaction with liver cells may synergize the development of HBV-associated cirrhosis.