

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



December 13, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript

**Title:** Serum hepatitis B surface antigen levels predict treatment response to nucleos(t)ide analogues

**Author:** Chien-Hung Chen, Yi-Chun Chiu, Sheng-Nan Lu, Chuan-Mo Lee, Jing-Houng Wang, Tsung-Hui Hu, Chao-Hung Hung

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6574.

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1. Format has been updated
2. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Reviewer 1:

1. Since the authors discuss based on topics which are 1) Comparison of HBsAg kinetic between interferon and NAs, 2) HBsAg predict virological response (VR) or HBeAg loss/seroconversion during NAs therapy, 3) HBsAg predict HBsAg loss during NAs therapy, 4) HBsAg predict HBsAg loss and HBV relapse after stopping NAs therapy, and 5) Other issues, I suggest the authors to provide summary by Table for each topic.

**Answer:** We have provided the Table for each topic except 5) other issues

2. The manuscript did not follow WJG format. Please modify the manuscript format based on the WJG format.

**Answer:** We have modified our manuscript.

Reviewer 2:

1. Irrespective of clinical course of CHB, it is necessary to consider the natural course. So, authors had better mention the natural course of HBsAg clearance. If not, it is not ambiguous which NA treatment induced HBsAg clearance or not.

**Answer:** we had added the description of the nature course of HBsAg clearance on page 10, lines 6-23.

2. In minor; There were abbreviations without explanation; for example, TDF.

**Answer:** We have revised all of them.

Reviewer 3:

This revision d Chien-Hung et al is very interesting and well documented and it seems an excellent idea the inclusion of short summaries after each of the different sections. In this regard, it would be interesting the inclusion as figures, information boxes, with the main conclusions of these short summaries. Additional comments: The legend of Table 1 consists of a conclusion but does not specify the contents of the table to be displayed, since in that legend is only states that HBsAg predict relapse after stopping HBV nucleos (t) ide analoges (NA) therapy but includes other studies that are not related to this claim.

**Answer:** We have provided the Table for each topic. We have revised the content of Table.

Reviewer 4:

I have the following comments: 1. The author should present the detailed information of the studies discussed in each of the main sections in table form instead and only include the most important information in the text. 2. The author suggested that a 6- to 12- monthly assessment of quantitative HBsAg level could be considered to monitor nucleos(t)ide analogue therapy. I suggest a more conservative stand until more studies become available to better define the use of this test in clinical practice. 3. There were obvious spelling and grammatical errors throughout the manuscript that should be corrected prior to publication

**Answer:** 1. We have provided the Table for each topic. 2. We have deleted the previous description "Thus, we suggest that a 6- to 12- monthly assessment of quantitative HBsAg level could be considered to monitor NA therapy." 3. We have revised English.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for revising our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

Chao-Hung Hung