

Dear Editor,

Thank you for accepting our manuscript with minor revision for publication in World Journal of Gastroenterology. We appreciate the time and effort the reviewers dedicated to providing feedback on our manuscript. We have integrated the suggestions made by reviewers. We highlighted the changes to the manuscript.

Our revisions and responses to reviewers are below.

Yours sincerely,

Levent Doganay, MD

1- The visits of the patients were made at 3-6 month intervals. This is added to the Materials & Methods section.

2- Pretreatment AFP levels was associated with HCC development in the univariable analyses ( $p < 0.001$ ) but not in the multivariable analysis ( $p = 0.141$ ). This result is added to both the results section and Table-3.

3- This is a retrospective study so the effect of treatment non-compliance could not be determined precisely. This is stated as a limitation of the study. We have already made maintained virological response (MVR) and flare definitions. MVR was not predictive for HCC development in univariate and multivariate analysis and HCC was not detected in any patients with hepatic flare. This issue is explained in methods and results sections.

4- A language editing certificate issued by AJE is submitted

5- **The title page** was also revised for authors' contributions and corresponding author's email address. It **is submitted as supplementary material**.

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Could you please send link to all three authors for signing CLA document? (We have sent an e-mail to the editorial office with regard to this subject)