

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 69686

Title: Cross-sectional evaluation of circulating hepatitis B virus RNA and DNA: Different quasispecies?

Reviewer's code: 05467040

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Spain

Manuscript submission date: 2021-07-08

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-07-09 02:43

Reviewer performed review: 2021-07-19 07:26

Review time: 10 Days and 4 Hours

Scientific quality	<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 Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<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
Conclusion	<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
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	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

It is a great investigation related to serum HBV-RNA quasi species establishment with a NGS method. Authors found the none significant difference between HBC-RNA and HBC-DNA in the first place and established a practical NGS method to analyze HBV-RNA. This HBV-RNA quasi species has been produced and well studied in the variability/conservation and complexity. HBV genetic test in clinical is quite important and benefit lots of chronic hepatitis B infection. HBV-RNA is a little-studied subfield in the corresponding research area. A new method to analyze serum HBV-RNA quasi species without HBV-DNA interference is needed. Well, there're some minor revisions authors should addressed before the publication. 1. Authors did not list any limitations of the study and its findings clearly. While the future directions of the topic had been described in the last paragraph of Discussion. 2. When author showed the results with statistical analysis, such as Line 370~374, the exact test method should be mentioned for better understanding of the study.