

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS



February 12, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 7297-edited.doc).

**Title: Natural history of chronic hepatitis B - phases in a complex relationship.**

**Author: Catherine M N Croagh, John Lubel.**

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 7297

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

(1) Title has been shortened and nonfunctional words deleted.

(2) Corresponding author's qualifications have been supplied.

(3) Keywords have been included taken largely from from the [Medical Subject Headings list of Index Medicus](#)

(4) Reviewer No 00504271 – Suggested corrections.

a) Figure 1. “HBV virus” should be “HBV.” – Changed to Hepatitis B Virus 2.

b) Table 1. The 5th column; “percutaneous” transmission should be precisely mentioned (for example, intravenous drug abuse). – Several examples of percutaneous transmission given

c) p. 5, l. 8; “(alanine aminotransferase) ALT” should be “alanine aminotransferase (ALT).” – changes made.

(5) Reviewer No 0050636 – Suggested corrections:

a) Abstract: The words “hepatocellular carcinoma” should not be capitalized. – corrected.

b) The word “conceptualized/conceptualization” is spelled two different ways in the abstract and last paragraph of the article. Use either s or z consistently to spell these words.- *changed to both be spelled with s.*

c) Please make sure the subject of the sentence and verb are both either singular or plural (i.e. host factors, such as age at infection, determine - not determines). The subject “host factors” is plural so the verb “determine” should be as well. There are errors like this throughout the article. – *this error has been corrected and remainder of manuscript checked for similar.*

d) Discussion: There are many run-on sentences that need commas to separate them. Please edit the entire manuscript carefully to correct these. – *Manuscript re read and changes made.*

e) You should define an acronym on first use (i.e. chronic hepatitis B (CHB)), and then make sure you use the acronym throughout the manuscript. Do not use “CHB” in one section and then say “chronic hepatitis B” again in another section after you’ve already defined CHB. The same goes for HBeAg, HBsAg, IFN, etc. – *all checked and changes made.*

f). Define “Australia antigen”.- *corrections made. “Blumberg reported in 1967 on the discovery of a novel Antibody found in the serum of a multiply transfused haemophilia patient. This Antibody reacted with only with 1 of 24 sera against which it was tested and the reacting serum came from an Australian Aborigine hence the*

*antigen was named the "Australia Antigen"*

g) Do not interchange the words "phase" and "stage"- in the last line on page 6. They are not the same. "Phase" refers to a certain time point in the history of the infection, whereas "stage" refers to pathologic extent of fibrosis in the liver. – *Changes made.*

h) On page 7, are the ALT levels of 25 and 20 IU/mL an average for those visits? Please clarify. *Yes they were the average ALT levels. The word average has been inserted.*

i) The word "data" is plural, and therefore the following verb should be too (i.e. some data suggest, not some data suggests on page 10). Please correct this mistake throughout the manuscript. – *Changes made.*

j) Some sentences have two periods at the end. Please correct.- *Changes made.*

k) Tables and figures: The last 2 rows of Table 2 appear to be the same. – *Last row of table 2 deleted.*

l) Some of the phrases in the tables have periods after them. I don't think periods are needed in a table. Please correct. – *Corrections made*

5) Reviewer No 00069855 – suggested corrections.

a) In page 1: at the end of the title, no no full point is needed - *removed.*

b) In page 6, line 2, after "For example", a comma is needed. Commas inserted after all "for example" phrases.

c) In page 22, line 2, Organization WH is WHO? – *Yes. Amended to WHO*

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3 References and typesetting were corrected as requested. Although the vast majority of references have PMID and DOI as inserted by endnoteX5 references 1 and 3 are WHO publications and they do not have PMID or DOI (at least that I can find). The web addresses and date accessed are included for Refs 1 and 3.

4. Since we are native English speakers we have not included a language certificate.

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

Your Sincerely,

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