

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

Manuscript NO: 74721

Title: Occult hepatitis B – the result of the host immune response interaction with different genomic expressions of the virus

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 00054672

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: FEBG, MD, PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Croatia

Author's Country/Territory: Romania

Manuscript submission date: 2022-01-05

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-01-06 16:12

Reviewer performed review: 2022-01-06 16:22

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Thank you for the invitation to review this manuscript on occult hepatitis B. This is an interesting subject and comprehensive review on the aforementioned subject, however the author has sent an incomplete version with comments included. As such the manuscript is not finished and not ready for peer review. Please contact the Editorial office and send your final version for the review.

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Title: Occult hepatitis B – the result of the host immune response interaction with different genomic expressions of the virus

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 00052947

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Director, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Germany

Author's Country/Territory: Romania

Manuscript submission date: 2022-01-05

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-01-06 16:53

Reviewer performed review: 2022-01-15 16:32

Review time: 8 Days and 23 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 type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The paper deals with an important and still enigmatic field in human virology, the occult hepatitis B infection (OBI). An exhaustive description of OBI would exceed the frame of a normal review and would need an entire book. The author has very well illuminated the main features of OBI and discusses many of the current theories on its evolution after and during transmission of HBV. I have entered some minor corrections directly in the text (attached). Specific points Among the not sufficiently considered aspects is 1. The question of infectivity originating from OBI carriers by organ transplantation and elsewhere 2. The role of vaccination for induction of OBI after exposure and the potential protection of OBI carriers against additional infection by HBV. 3. The role of HBsAg assays which are "supersensitive" and/or dissociate HBs immune complexes is not mentioned.

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03644796

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: FRCP (Hon), MBBS, MRCP, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Attending Doctor, Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Singapore

Author's Country/Territory: Romania

Manuscript submission date: 2022-01-05

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-01-05 14:53

Reviewer performed review: 2022-01-16 17:46

Review time: 11 Days and 2 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This review article analysed the literature for viral and host factors that interact and lead to an occult form of the HBV infection, including the recent discoveries in miRNA involvement, epigenetic mechanisms, immune system factors and viral variants. A lot of effort was put into this minireview. However, there are two major concerns: 1. The review will be much clearer if the author summarizes the key points in one or two tables or highlight with figures on the host immune response and mechanisms lead to OBI. In its current form, it is quite hard for non-HBV expert to understand and retain the key points in the manuscript. 2. I understand this to be a review article, but there are too many lines that will not pass the authentication standards necessary to avoid future challenges if published in its present form. I pasted a few examples in the uploaded file. I would suggest the author to do a careful check and re-write the lines in his own words in the next revision.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Reviewer's code: 00054672

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: FEBG, MD, PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Croatia

Author's Country/Territory: Romania

Manuscript submission date: 2022-01-05

Reviewer chosen by: Ze-Mao Gong

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-03-21 16:01

Reviewer performed review: 2022-03-21 16:15

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" 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
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The subject is interesting and the manuscript has been improved compared with the first version. The author did not bother to give point-by-point detail answers to the reviewers.