

Mar.25, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find the revised manuscript in Word format (file name: 7850-review.doc).

Title: Comparison of the Abbott and Da-an real-time PCR assays for quantitating HBV DNA in serum

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The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of the reviewers and the editor.

1. Format has been updated.

2. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers.

- (1) The authors should emphasize that the accurate DNA quantification is important for CHB patients and the significance of HBV DNA test in the introduction part.

Answer: In the Introduction Section, the important roles of accurate DNA quantification and the significance of HBV DNA test have been emphasized accordingly (Please see the Introduction Section Page 3 line 20-23).

- (2) The authors mentioned that Da-an assay did not specify the range of genotypes. It is necessary to examine this assay in samples with non-C HBV genotypes.

Answer: In China, more than 90% of patients with chronic hepatitis B have been reported to be infected with genotype B and C HBV. In our manuscript, the Da-an and Abbott assays showed very good agreement when testing the HBV reference sera (HBV DNA standard) of genotype B. At the same time, the HBV DNA values measured by both assays were significantly correlated with the expected values of HBV DNA standards (Please see the Result Section, Page 8 line 2-19; Fig1, Fig2 and Table1).

- (3) Similarly, it is necessary to examine this assay in samples with HBV DNA mutation, especially in drug-resistant (lamivudine and adefovir dipivoxil) patients.

Answer: In this study, a total of 48 patients with chronic hepatitis B were enrolled, two of them were patients with lamivudine-resistant. The results of HBV DNA quantifications of their follow-up samples during adefovir dipivoxil treatment with the Da-an and Abbott assays have been added in the Results Section (Page 9 line27-31 and Page 10 line 1-6). At same time, we added a literature report to address the influence of sequence mutation on the

quantification of HBV DNA in the Discussion Section (Page 13 line29-30 and Page 14 line 1-5).

3. References and typesetting were corrected. The English of the manuscript has been kindly polished by a native speaker, Ms. Sandra Lester, Dept. of Microbiology, Immunology and Biochemistry, University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Authors appreciate very much for the editor's revision and reviewers' comments, and hope that with these additions and modifications to the manuscript you will find it acceptable for publication in ***the World Journal of Gastroenterology***.

Sincerely yours,



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