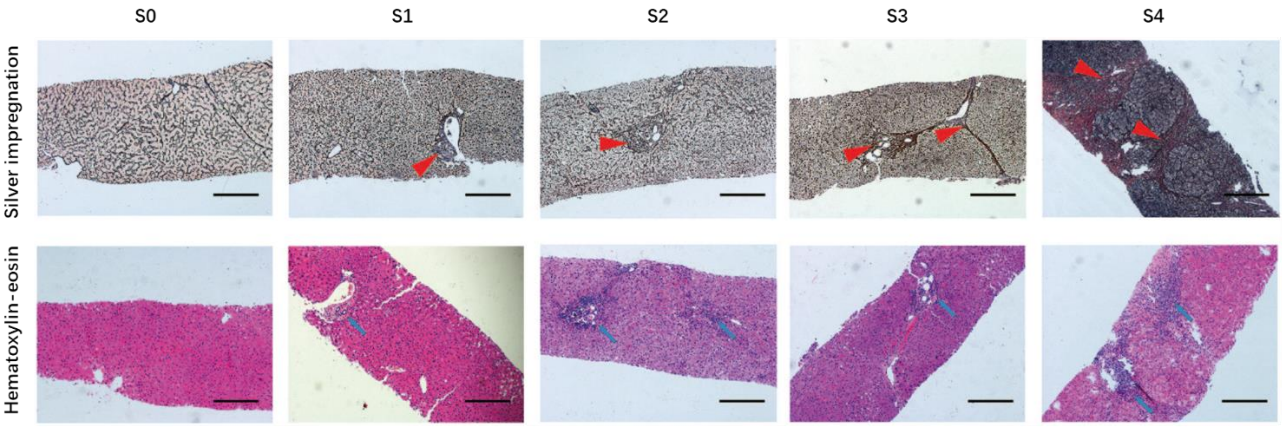
Supplementary Table 1 PCR primers (Sangon Biotech, Shanghai) for RT-qPCR

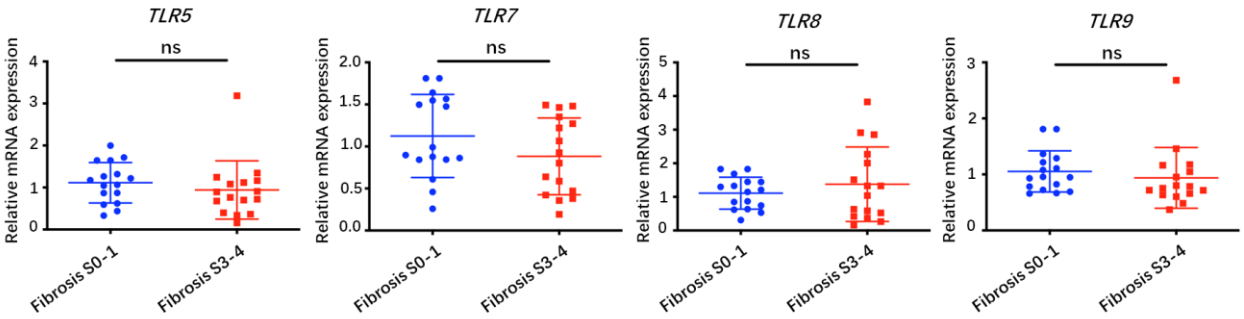
	Forward primer	**Reverse primer**
FAP	GGAAGTGCCTGTTCCAGCAATG	TGTCTGCCAGTCTTCCCTGAAG
FGF1	ATGGCACAGTGGATGGGACAAG	TAAAAGCCCGTCGGTGTCCATG
FGF2	AGCGGCTGTACTGCAAAAACGG	CCTTTGATAGACACAACTCCTCTC
FGF7	CTGTCGAACACAGTGGTACCTG	CCAACTGCCACTGTCCTGATTTC
COL1A1	GATTCCCTGGACCTAAAGGTGC	AGCCTCTCCATCTTTGCCAGCA
TGF-β1	TACCTGAACCCGTGTTGCTCTC	GTTGCTGAGGTATCGCCAGGAA
PDGF	GAGATGCTGAGTGACCACTCGA	GTCATGTTCAGGTCCAACTCGG
TIMP1	GGAGAGTGTCTGCGGATACTTC	GCAGGTAGTGATGTGCAAGAGTC
EGF	TGCGATGCCAAGCAGTCTGTGA	GCATAGCCCAATCTGAGAACCAC
CTGF	CTTGCGAAGCTGACCTGGAAGA	CCGTCGGTACATACTCCACAGA
IL-1β	CCACAGACCTTCCAGGAGAATG	GTGCAGTTCAGTGATCGTACAGG
TNF-a	CTCTTCTGCCTGCTGCACTTTG	ATGGGCTACAGGCTTGTCACTC
IL6	AGACAGCCACTCACCTCTTCAG	TTCTGCCAGTGCCTCTTTGCTG
a-SMA	CTATGCCTCTGGACGCACAACT	CAGATCCAGACGCATGATGGCA

CCL3	ACTTTGAGACGAGCAGCCAGTG	TTTCTGGACCCACTCCTCACTG
NLRP3	GGACTGAAGCACCTGTTGTGCA	TCCTGAGTCTCCCAAGGCATTC
TLR4	CCCTGAGGCATTTAGGCAGCTA	AGGTAGAGAGGTGGCTTAGGCT
TLR5	CCTTACAGCGAACCTCATCCAC	TCCACTACAGGAGGAGAAGCGA
TLR7	CTTTGGACCTCAGCCACAACCA	CGCAACTGGAAGGCATCTTGTAG
TLR8	ACTCCAGCAGTTTCCTCGTCTC	AAAGCCAGAGGGTAGGTGGGAA
TLR9	TGAGCCACAACTGCATCTCGCA	CAGTCGTGGTAGCTCCGTGAAT
GAPDH	GTCTCCTCTGACTTCAACAGCG	ACCACCCTGTTGCTGTAGCCAA

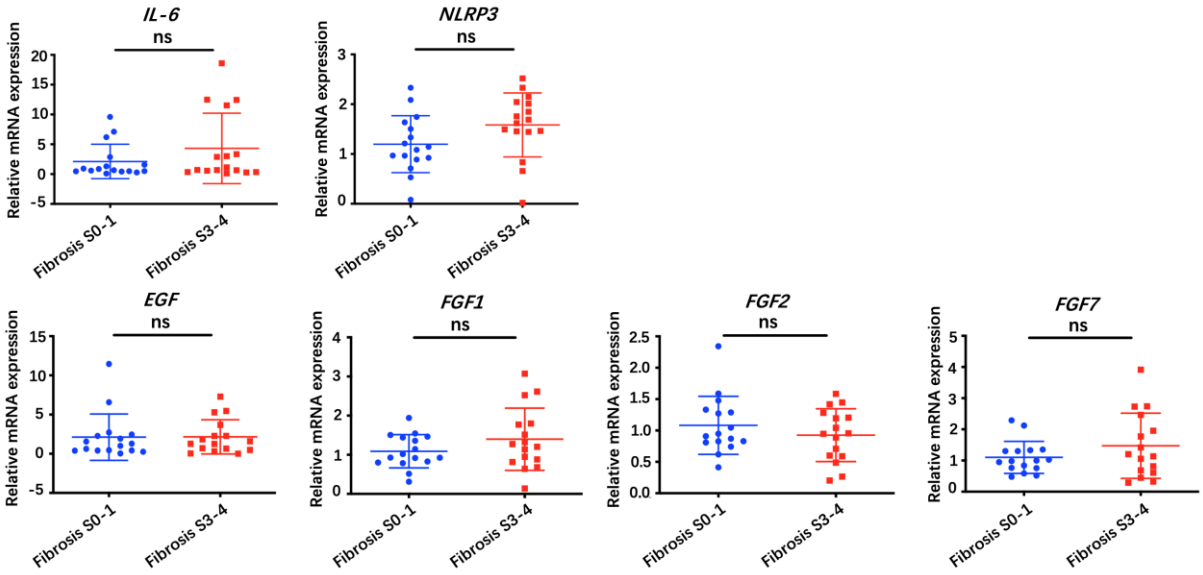
FAP: Fibroblast activation protein; FGF: Fibroblast growth factor ; COL1A1: Collagen type 1 alpha 1 chain; TGF-β1: Transforming growth factor β1; PDGF: Platelet-derived growth factor; TIMP1: Tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1; EGF: Epidermal growth factor; CTGF: Connective tissue growth factor; IL-1β: Interleukin 1β; TNF-α: Tumor necrosis factor alpha; IL6: Interleukin 6; α-SMA: Alpha-smooth muscle actin; CCL3: C-C motif chemokine ligand 3; NLRP3: Nod-like receptor protein 3; TLR: Toll-like receptor; GAPDH: Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase.



Supplementary Figure 1 Silver impregnation and hematoxylin-eosin staining of hepatitis B virus patient liver samples. Representative silver impregnation staining (upper panels) and hematoxylin-eosin staining (lower panels) figures with different degrees of fibrosis. Dark staining as the red arrowheads point to are the fibrosis area. Blue infiltrates as the blue arrows point to are the infiltrated immune cells indicating inflammation degree. Scale bar = 100 μm.



Supplementary Figure 2 Expression of toll-like receptors in the hepatitis B virus patient liver samples. qPCR of toll-like receptors in hepatitis B virus patients with advanced fibrosis (S3-4) in comparion with patients with less fibrosis (S0-1). Values presented are expressed as the means ± SE; Statistical comparisons were Mann–Whitney–Wilcoxon test; $P < 0.05$ was considered significant; ns: Non-significant. TLR: toll-like receptor.



Supplementary Figure 3 Profiling of growth factors and inflammatory factors in the hepatitis B virus patient liver samples. A: qPCR of inflammatory factors and B: Growth factors in HBV patients with advanced fibrosis (S3-4) in comparion with patients with less fibrosis (S0-1). Values presented are expressed as the means ±SE; Statistical comparisons were Mann–Whitney–Wilcoxon test; $P < 0.05$ was considered significant; ns: Non-significant. IL6: interleukin 6; NLRP3: nod-like receptor protein 3; EGF: epidermal growth factor; FGF: fibroblast growth factor.