

Analysis and comments

**Corresponding Author: Ai-Ru Hsieh
MS #18027**

General information regarding our revision of your manuscript

1. Throughout the manuscript, we have highlighted in **bracketed bold type** certain text where we did not fully understand your intended meaning (e.g., it may be ambiguous) or where we want to draw your attention to the need for additional detail (e.g., **[text you need to consider]**). Also, we may insert comments such as the following: **[Authors: You may wish to present more detail with regard to procedure X.]**.

We may give you options from which to choose, as indicated in **[bold type]**. The options are separated by 'OR'. For example, you would choose one of the three options as indicated by the following: **[decreased OR increased OR remained unchanged]**.

If your original text is retained in the bolded options, then it will be listed last.

If options (or suggested wording) must be placed in text that already is in bold type, then we highlight the options/suggestions in red. Examples:

The gene encoding the **[nicotinic cholinergic receptor β 1 OR beta 1] subunit** is a member of the cholinergic receptor family.

Several of the influential genes **[were consistently identified [in the datasets] by the two indices OR identified by the two indices were among those consistent ones]**.

If we feel a reference should be cited, then we indicate this as **[REF]** or **[REF?]**.

2. Spelling: We have taken great care to check spelling throughout the manuscript, but there may be technical/medical terms that we cannot adequately check—particularly in manuscripts containing numerous species names. Therefore, please carefully check the revised manuscript for possible spelling errors (or usage errors with regard to systematics).
3. In the pages below, we point out specific instances where you should pay particular attention to our revision. (Please note that we refer to specific paragraphs and sentences in the REVISED manuscript, not to those in the original manuscript.) Because the manuscript may have undergone substantial revision, you should carefully read the entire text to verify that your intended meaning has been maintained throughout.
4. After you have considered our revisions and comments and updated your manuscript accordingly, you may wish to send your updated version to us again for a final review. **Indeed, if your manuscript has undergone extensive revision, then an additional round of revision may be particularly helpful (and perhaps necessary).**

Doris Tai

Specific comments and suggestions regarding the revision of your manuscript

General comments

1. The online Author Instructions for **World Journal of Gastroenterology** are located at: <http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/Nav/9>
2. To make it technically easier for us to edit the manuscript, we deleted the embedded figure files that were in the original manuscript.
3. **Note on journal style:** Because your paper has already undergone peer review, we did not revise your paper for journal style. Please refer to the online Author Instructions and make any necessary corrections to the style prior to resubmitting your paper to the journal.
4. For consistency, we have made the following style changes throughout the manuscript:
 - We inserted spaces before/after mathematical symbols, as necessary
 - **Minus sign:** We used a minus sign (–) instead of a hyphen (-) wherever a minus sign was meant (including negative exponents).
 - We eliminated use of nonstandard Asian fonts, where obvious
 - We consistently used uppercase ‘L’ (rather than ‘l’) as the abbreviation for “liter”
 - We eliminated unnecessary abbreviations
5. Please consistently use uppercase ‘P’ or lowercase ‘p’ for P-values throughout the manuscript (and figures/tables, if relevant).
6. **Important comment concerning the number of significant figures:** Please verify that the number of significant figures reported for each numerical value (or percentage) reflects the number of significant figures of the source data.

For example, in Table III, consider whether consider whether the entries “84 (63.64)” and “79 (46.20)” should be reported as “84 (64)” and “79 (46)” or as “84 (63.6)” and “79 (46.2)”.

7. Please consider replacing each occurrence of “HBsAg-positive” (or “HBsAg positive”) with “HBsAg”.
8. **Concerning the original phrase “HBsAg carriers”:** Consider whether this phrase is accurate, i.e., it seems an individual could be an “HBV carrier” and/or chronically “express HBsAg”. We have offered various options for the original phrase throughout the manuscript, and please make any necessary corrections.
9. Consider replacing each occurrence of the term “intra-familial” with “intra-family”.

Daker, Tai

10. Consider replacing each occurrence of “HCC families” with “families affected by HCC”.

Structured Abstract

1. Check that the final version of your Abstract conforms to the specifications of *WJG* for your particular article type (e.g., Basic Study, Randomized Clinical Trial, etc.).

Main text

1. **General comment:** As a fundamental aspect of our revision process, we have shortened the length of the text, where possible, or otherwise offered optional (shorter) interpretations in **bracketed/bold type**. Note, however, that not all options shown in **bold** reflect “shortened” text, in that certain options are offered simply to improve the writing or scientific accuracy.
2. Please refer to all of our numerous comments written in **bracketed/bold type** throughout the manuscript.

Patients and Methods

1. **Supplier locations:** Please consistently indicate supplier locations using a consistent style.

Tables, figures, and figure legends

1. **Tables:** Presumably tables should be numbered with Arabic numerals (e.g., Table 3) rather than the current use of Roman numerals (Table III).
2. **Figure 1:** In the right-side boxes, change “First stage” to “First-stage” and “Second stage” to “Second-stage”. In the lower-right box, change “Factor” to “Factors”.
3. **Figure 2:** To improve readability, please increase the type size for each of the axis labels and of the axis tick labels (e.g., “<1915”).

In each axis label, please capitalize the first word, i.e., “Body” and “Birth”.

For the key at the bottom of the figure, presumably “Families” should be changed to “Families affected by HCC” or “HCC families”.

References and citations

1. The manuscript uses referencing software, and therefore we did not revise the References section or the reference citations in the text. The References pages will not be included when calculating our fee.

Please confirm that all references in the References list are cited in the manuscript and that all references cited in the manuscript are listed in the References.

James Tan