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ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 14034

Title: Genotypes and viral variants in Chronic hepatitis B: A review of epidemiology and clinical relevance

Reviewer code: 02860540

Science editor: Yue-Li Tian

Date sent for review: 2014-09-20 13:25

Date reviewed: 2014-10-30 01:40

| CLASSIFICATION | LANGUAGE EVALUATION | RECOMMENDATION | CONCLUSION |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | Google Search: | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Existing | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> No records | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected | BPG Search: | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor | | <input type="checkbox"/> Existing | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> No records | |

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I read with interest the review entitled "Genotypes and viral variants in Chronic hepatitis B: a review of epidemiologic and clinical relevance" by Croagh et al. The review is complete, exhaustive and well written. There are a lot of useful information for the clinicians managing patients with HBV infection. I only suggest to write a new paragraph about "future directions" in whom the authors could underline further the future changes in the clinical practice following the increasing knowledge in this field. This paper is suitable for publication.



ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 14034

Title: Genotypes and viral variants in Chronic hepatitis B: A review of epidemiology and clinical relevance

Reviewer code: 02526287

Science editor: Yue-Li Tian

Date sent for review: 2014-09-20 13:25

Date reviewed: 2014-09-30 04:37

| CLASSIFICATION | LANGUAGE EVALUATION | RECOMMENDATION | CONCLUSION |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | Google Search: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Existing | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> No records | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected | BPG Search: | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor | | <input type="checkbox"/> Existing | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> No records | |

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

We read with interest the paper entitled "Genotypes and viral variants in Chronic hepatitis B: a review of epidemiologic and clinical relevance" by Croagh et al. It is a exhaustive review on the different genotypes and variants of HBV and their epidemiologic and clinical implications. The authors provide a plentiful on a topic that has become relevant in the last years. In fact, genotypes and viral variants seem to play a pivotal role on outcome of HBV infected patients being differently associated with the risk of disease progression toward cirrhosis and, subsequently to hepatocellular carcinoma. HBV variant, are particularly relevant to understand some clinical differences on chronicity and outcome of virus infection in different geographic areas as well as the expected results of vaccine programs. Furthermore, the problem of HBV genotyping is of great relevance also because hepatologists should be aware that some recommendations on HBV management from international guidelines, should not be generalized considering that they have been derived from clinical studies in which the prevalence of different genotypes was relevant. Unfortunately, as stated by the authors, HBV genotyping, unlike HCV infection, is not currently performed in routine clinical practice being still confined to basic research and carried out by only a few virologic Institutions. In our opinion, there is a urgent need for a commercial test available for application to clinical practice to further implement the correct approach to this global health problem. The review is well organized and all the main aspects of epidemiology (geographic distribution) and clinical



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implication (outcome, treatment) are fully addressed. The language is good and does not require major adjustments. References are updated.