

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



February 10, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 14872-review.doc).

Title: Insights into HIV-HBV co-infection in India

Author: Runu Chakravarty, Ananya Pal

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Virology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 14872

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer- **Changes in revised manuscript are highlighted with text highlight colour 'Turquoise'. We have added information of lamivudine-resistance among HIV-HBV co-infected patients in India from a recently accepted manuscript (vide P.10,2.31- P.11,1.13).**

Reviewer1:

The review article by Chakravarty and Pal is well-written and should be published after properly modified. The authors collected the numbers of publications from India and other world (Table). It is advised to summarize the genotypes and mutations of HBV in the HIV-HBV co-infection cases in India in a table or map. Some sentences which may mislead the audience should be revised properly.

1. P.3, l. 14: "As a consequence in an estimated 40 million people living with HIV worldwide, 90% show the biological signs of prior HBV infection." According to ref. 2, the incidence of HBV-prior infection (90 %) was estimated in Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. This sentence should be corrected properly. 2. P. 6, l. 25- p. 7, l. 1: The authors mislead the paper by Thio et al (ref. 25). In their abstract, "In settings where HBV DNA is not available, HBeAg may be useful to assess the need for HBV treatment." is mentioned. 3. P.8, l. 2-4: "Again, in the recent report on a multi-national HIV infected cohort (n=113) Thio et al. found predominance of HBV/A (72%) and HBV/D (16%) in HIV-HBV co-infection worldwide[25]." The authors should mention that the geographical divergence of HBV genotypes was also stressed in ref. 25.

Minor point 1. P. 9, l. 8: "x ORF" should be "X ORF."

Our response: We are sincerely thankful to the Reviewer for his/her appreciation of our study and suggestion to further improve the manuscript. We have addressed the issues mentioned by the Reviewer in below -

- As suggested, the genotypes of HBV and their prevalence in HIV co-infected patients in India reported in different studies have been included in the figure of this review. Moreover, we have summarized the mutations in HBV genome reported among HIV-HBV co-infected individuals from India in that figure.

- In P.3,1. 14, the sentence pointed out by the reviewer has been corrected.
- As suggested, we have modified the respective sentence in P.6,1.25- P.7,1,1 to represent our statement (Vide page no. 6-7).
- We have mentioned that the geographical divergence of HBV genotypes was also stressed in ref. 25 as suggested by the reviewer (vide page no. 8, para no.1. line no. 2-4).
- As suggested, in P.9,1.8: "x ORF" has been changed to "X ORF".

Reviewer 2:

This review article is a good blend of information available from India as well as from other parts of the globe.

1. Thorough revision with respect to language usage and grammar is required before considering the manuscript for acceptance.
2. The Table.1 seems not necessary. The information that many aspects of this clinical feature is not available from India may also be mentioned in the text.
3. Figure. 1 is not comprehensible. The authors need to make the figure and legends more clear to correctly represent their point of view.

Our Response: We are sincerely thankful to the Reviewer for his/her appreciation of our study and suggestion to further improve the manuscript. We have now addressed the issues raised by the reviewer.

1. We have revised the manuscript with respect to language usage and grammar.
2. As suggested by the reviewer 2, we have omitted the Table.1 where the information is already being mentioned in the text.
3. We have modified Figure.1 to make it comprehensive which represents both available data and the 'gaps' in the research of 'HIV-HBV co-infection in India' at a glance. We have also modified figure legends according to the figure.

3 References and typesetting were corrected- PubMed citation numbers and DOI citation to the references have been added.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Virology*.

Sincerely yours,



Runu Chakravarty, PhD
 ICMR Virus Unit, Kolkata
 GB-4, 1st Floor, ID & BG Hospital Campus,
 57, Dr. S.C. Banerjee Road, Beliaghata
 Kolkata-700010, West Bengal, India
 Phone: +91 33 2353 7425
 E-mail: runugc@gmail.com