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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS manuscript NO: 31434
Title: Hepatitis B virus infection and alcohol consumption
Reviewer's code: 03671246
Reviewer's country: Thailand
Science editor: Jing Yu
Date sent for review: 2016-11-16 17:29
Date reviewed: 2016-12-10 21:02

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A: Excellent	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	[Y] Accept
[ ] Grade B: Very good	[ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing	[ ] The same title	[ ] High priority for publication
[Y] Grade C: Good	[Y] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	[ ] Duplicate publication	[ ] Rejection
[ ] Grade D: Fair	[ ] Grade D: Rejected	[ ] Plagiarism	[ ] Minor revision
[ ] Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	[ ] Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		[ ] The same title	
		[ ] Duplicate publication	
		[ ] Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors should bring more details about the relationship between the protective immune response vs the harmful autoimmune response in HBV infection in the context of alcohol intervention.

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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS manuscript NO: 31434
Title: Hepatitis B virus infection and alcohol consumption
Reviewer's code: 02936743
Reviewer's country: Poland
Science editor: Jing Yu
Date sent for review: 2016-11-16 17:29
Date reviewed: 2016-12-12 17:25

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A: Excellent	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	[ ] Accept
[Y] Grade B: Very good	[ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing	[ ] The same title	[ ] High priority for publication
[ ] Grade C: Good	[ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	[ ] Duplicate publication	[ ] Rejection
[ ] Grade D: Fair	[ ] Grade D: Rejected	[ ] Plagiarism	[Y] Minor revision
[ ] Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	[ ] Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		[ ] The same title	
		[ ] Duplicate publication	
		[ ] Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

and Alcohol Consumption" provides a comprehensive and insightful overview of the interaction of HBV infection and alcohol consumption on disease progression.The authors make a systematic contribution to the research literature in this area of investigation. The presented informations are relevant, new and theory based. The paper is ready for publication however needs minor revision. The separate Figure/Table summarizing the exact actions/mechanisms of alcohol on HBV (from data on page 6). The mechanisms described on Fig. 1 are OK, but too general for this type of review. Please also add number of citation on page 5 concerning the sentence: "...deposition of the majority of excess extracellular matrix (predominantly collagen types I and III...".

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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
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Reviewer's country: Australia
Science editor: Jing Yu
Date sent for review: 2016-11-16 17:29
Date reviewed: 2016-12-19 09:28

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A: Excellent	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	[Y] Accept
[Y] Grade B: Very good	[ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing	[ ] The same title	[ ] High priority for publication
[ ] Grade C: Good	[ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	[ ] Duplicate publication	[ ] Rejection
[ ] Grade D: Fair	[ ] Grade D: Rejected	[ ] Plagiarism	[ ] Minor revision
[ ] Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	[ ] Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		[ ] The same title	
		[ ] Duplicate publication	
		[ ] Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Iida-Ueno A et al HBV and Alcohol This manuscript reviews the relationship between alcohol consumption and chronic hepatitis B virus infection in the progression of liver disease and effectiveness of antiviral therapies. It is well-written and presents a thorough and unbiased overview of the evidence for the potential role of alcohol consumption in synergistically accelerating HBV-related liver disease progression and HCC incidence. There are some minor points/issues that could be addressed to improve the manuscript: 1. The heading 'Basic Background' is vague. As this section addresses potential mechanisms of alcohol- and HBV-related liver disease progression and experimental studies of the impact of alcohol on HBV replication, transcription and immune responses, a more appropriate title for this section might be 'Potential mechanisms of alcohol- and HBV-related liver disease' or similar. Alternatively, this section could be sub-divided into two sections with the first part dealing with 'mechanisms of alcohol- and HBV-induced liver damage' and the final large paragraph dealing with 'interplay between alcohol and HBV in liver disease progression'. The final large paragraph could be broken down into three paragraphs as the first section addresses the impact of alcohol on viral replication and gene expression, the second topic is

measures of liver damage (ALT, histology) in mouse models of HBx expression/alcohol and the third topic is alteration of immune responses to HBV due to alcohol consumption. 2. In some instances the findings of previous studies are 'listed' without relating the findings to one another or discussion of the strengths/weaknesses of the study (especially in the 'Basic Background' and 'Heavy Alcohol Consumption…' sections). Where appropriate, it would be helpful if the description of some of these previous studies were related to each other and clinical/basic science observations (e.g. 'similarly…', 'in contrast…', 'consistent with clinical observations…'). This would help the reader to appreciate points of controversy and consistency in the field. 3. The concluding summary sentences at the ends of the 'Light-to-moderate alcohol…' and 'Heavy alcohol consumption…' sections are helpful. Where possible, this approach should be applied to other sections as well. 4. In the 'Genetic Factors' section, the discussion of genetic polymorphisms that are associated with HBV-related liver disease should be expanded (e.g. what is the nature of HLA-DP SNPs associated with HBV infection?). Also, as the strongest genetic predictor of IFN-based therapeutic success in HCV-infected individuals and as several studies have addressed its potential significance to HBV-related liver disease, it might be appropriate if the potential association of IFNL3 (IL28B) polymorphisms with HBV-related liver disease are briefly discussed here (see Stattermayer AF, Ferenci P. Curr Opin Virol 2015 for review). In this context, discussion of the recently identified INST10 polymorphism associated with HBV persistence (Li Y, Si L et al Nat Commun 2016) may also be appropriate here. 5. The tables are very helpful in summarizing/comparing the findings of studies of light/heavy alcohol consumption and genetic polymorphisms associated with liver disease. The referencing style for these tables should be brought into line with one another. 6. In the 'Conclusions' and 'Core tip' sections it is stated strongly that alcohol abuse can impair the response to interferon-alpha therapy. Although this appears true for HCV infection and is likely to hold true for HBV, this topic has not been thoroughly investigated in the context of HBV. This conclusion should therefore be toned down somewhat. 7. The Figure 1 figure legend is very brief and should be expanded upon.