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## ESPS JOURNAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 14930

**Title:** Interleukin-21 gene polymorphisms and chronic hepatitis B virus infection in a Chinese population

**Journal Editor-in-Chief (Associate Editor):** Han Chu Lee

**Country:** South Korea

**Editorial Director:** Jin-Lei Wang

**Date sent for review:** 2015-01-16 09:56

**Date reviewed:** 2015-01-16 14:40

ACADEMIC CONTENT EVALUATION	LANGUAGE QUALITY EVALUATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<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"/> Revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		

### JOURNAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (ASSOCIATE EDITOR) COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This study has an important methodologic issue that should be shown or discussed. There were no demographic data on each group. Progression from chronic hepatitis to cirrhosis, to HCC is highly dependent on patient's age. In addition, it can be modified by treatment or alcohol consumption. Male is known to develop HCC more frequently than female does. Therefore, simple comparison of allele frequency among several groups is meaningless. Clinical data on carriers, chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis and HCC should be presented and each group should be matched according to sex, age, alcohol, and/or history of treatment, etc. If the investigators cannot not match these variables, at least, it should be discussed as a weak point of this study, in the Discussion. Reference should be corrected into reference in table 1 and 2. Hardy-weinberg should be corrected into Hardy-Weinberg in table 1.