

To the Editor of World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript No. 18697

We thank the reviewers for their comments and suggestions, which most certainly improve our manuscript.

A point by point reply to the reviewers' comments follows:

Reviewer N 02474333

*-A confuse between HBV and HCV (Line 8 from the buttom of the page 13 and line 9 of the page 15)*

We thank the reviewer for pointing out this typing error and have corrected both points.

*-The discussion idea in the following phase: The higher percentage of HBsAg-positive males harboring HBV chronic infection may be the result of either a longer replicative phase of HBV in males than in females or due to differences in tribal and sexual behaviors between males and females" need to be more clearly explained or authentisized.*

We apologize for the mistake probably due to inadequate final reading. The phrase has been modified (page 5, line 18).

*- Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg do not belong to Eastern Europe, so the authors should revise the following paragraph: Prevention In 2009, Nardone et al. published a report on the HBV epidemiology in 10 European countries in relation to the application of the vaccination policies. At the time of publication of this report, HBV universal vaccination programs recommended by the WHO were in progress in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Romania and Slovakia but the vaccine coverage differed between countries, most probably reflecting the difficulty to cover people living in rural areas in some countries (Italy, Romania, Slovakia) [163 ].*

We have modified the paragraph according to the reviewer's suggestions (page 13, line 1).

*-The way of presentation is not homogenous in some references: Ref No 3, 4, 5, 16,18, 20, 40, 50, 58, 66, 67, 148, 184;*

We apologized for the non-homogeneous presentation of the references in some parts of the manuscript, but this is because some articles are cited on more than one occasion and the numeration refers to the first appearance of the article in the text. We are unable to modify this presentation.

*- Some typing mistakes occurred in following refences: Ref No 8-10, 126, 127, 146*

We apologize and have corrected the mistakes.

We thank you for your kind attention and hope the article is now worthy of publication in the World Journal of Gastroenterology

Sincerely Yours

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