

## ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Hepatology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 13625

**Title:** Clinical utility of complex mutations in the core promoter and proximal precore regions of hepatitis B virus genome.

**Reviewer code:** 02860618

**Science editor:** Yue-Li Tian

**Date sent for review:** 2014-08-28 19:28

**Date reviewed:** 2014-09-10 22:48

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair		BPG Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The review by Park YM deals with a very interesting topics but it is badly written and needs an extensive revision by a native English speaker.

## ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Hepatology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 13625

**Title:** Clinical utility of complex mutations in the core promoter and proximal precore regions of hepatitis B virus genome.

**Reviewer code:** 01407353

**Science editor:** Yue-Li Tian

**Date sent for review:** 2014-08-28 19:28

**Date reviewed:** 2014-09-16 18:11

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

Here Young Min Park reviews the issue of the possible clinical utility of mutations in the core promoter and proximal precore regions of the HBV genome. In particular, he analyzes the possibility that the number/type of mutations in these regions may predict the development of liver cancer. Overall, the paper is comprehensive and interesting. A review can be inspired by personal investigations and also centered on own results. However, they should be always cited to sustain a discussion rather than presented as the topic of the paper. Note for example at page 7th, first line: "For this article, we analyzed clinical...". This type of expression is not adequate for a review work. Moreover, I suggest a careful revision of the text with the aid of an English native speaker.

## ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Hepatology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 13625

**Title:** Clinical utility of complex mutations in the core promoter and proximal precore regions of hepatitis B virus genome.

**Reviewer code:** 02456377

**Science editor:** Yue-Li Tian

**Date sent for review:** 2014-08-28 19:28

**Date reviewed:** 2014-09-06 10:38

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input 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 checked="" 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

The present study by Young Min Park is investigated the combined effect of number and pattern of mutations in the core promoter and proximal precore regions, and their utility to predict the HCC risk. The results showed that mutation number over six is the most important viral factor to predict the risk of HCC in the group of chronic HBV carriers infected by the BCP mutant type. In general, the work was interesting, except several issues to be addressed to increase the quality of the present work.

1. The authors should supplement the correlation analysis between the number of mutations and the rate of HCC. Figure 1. (A)
2. The authors should supplement the correlation analysis between the number of mutations of PABC clinical staging and the rate of HCC, respectively. Figure 1. (B)
3. I think that the author should change Figure 1. (C) and Figure 1. (D) to tables, and supplement statistical methods achieving p values in all tables.