

Dear Dr. Huang,

Thank you for getting in touch. Regarding your questions, my answers as follows:

1. It is unacceptable to have more than 3 references from the same journal. However, *J Hepatol* is the top journal in the field of liver disease and there are many valuable references from this journal. In order to ensure the quality of references that support the argument of this paper, after our efforts there are still 6 references from this journal. **You don't need to revise it.**

2. About Clinical Trial Registration Statement: This study is a prospective cohort study, but not a clinical trial study. We just collect clinical data and blood samples from participants, and followed-up for at least 365 days. All enrolled patients were treated according to the established guidelines. This study design was approved by the Renji Hospital Ethics Committee of Shanghai Jiao tong University School of Medicine (ethics codes: (2014)148k). We don't think this prospective cohort study needs a Clinical Trial Registration Statement. **You don't need to provide this file.**

Best regards,

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