**Baishideng Publishing Group Co., Limited**
Flat C, 23/F., Lucky Plaza,
315-321 Lockhart Road,
Wan Chai, Hong Kong, China

**ESPS Peer-review Report**
**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology
**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6377
**Title:** Dynamic slopes of changes in circulating Foxp3+ regulatory T cells and interleukin-17 producing T helper cells along HBV related acute-on-chronic liver failure(ACHBLF) event
**Reviewer code:** 00460370
**Science editor:** Cui, Xue-Mei
**Date sent for review:** 2013-10-16 14:11
**Date reviewed:** 2013-11-21 10:47

| CLASSIFICATION | LANGUAGE EVALUATION | RECOMMENDATION | CONCLUSION |
|---|---|---|---|
| [ ] Grade A (Excellent) | [ ] Grade A: Priority Publishing | Google Search: | [ ] Accept |
| [ ] Grade B (Very good) | [ Y] Grade B: minor language polishing | [ ] Existed | [ ] High priority for publication |
| [ Y] Grade C (Good) | [ ] Grade C: a great deal of language polishing | [ ] No records | [ ]Rejection |
| [ ] Grade D (Fair) | [ ] Grade D: rejected | BPG Search: | [ ] Minor revision |
| [ ] Grade E (Poor) | | [ ] Existed | [ Y] Major revision |
| | | [ ] No records | |

**COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**
In this study, authors aimed to longitudinally investigate the expression levels of Th17 and regulatory T (Treg) cells in patients with HBV-related acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACHBLF) and analyze the potential change patterns between Th17 and Treg during the follow-up period. Major comments 1.The data are overall interesting. Although the numbers of patients are small, they are well characterized. However, the absence of mechanistic data was observed in this manuscript. 2.The histology and immunohistochemistry study would be helpful to elucidate the pathogenic role of Th17 and Treg cells-related cytokines. It would be interesting to investigate the expression levels of these cytokines in liver biopsy specimens from patients with HBV-related acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACHBLF). 3.The potential effect of anti-viral medications including hepatoprotective and antiviral drugs on the expression levels of Th17 and Treg cells is important. This issue should be presented and discussed. 4.How were the cut-off values defined for the FACS staining experiments? 5.The authors try to illustrate the opinion that Th17 cells are main cellular sources of IL-17 in ACHBLF patients. But a recently paper provided the evidence that only a small proportion of cellular sources of IL-17 in human were T cells, and the majority of IL-17A expressions were mast cells. Authors would give some explanations in the section of "Discussion". 6.In the section of "Materials and Methods", PBMCs were isolated from heparinized peripheral blood of the studied subjects by standard Ficoll-paque density centrifugation, "mRNA" was extracted…., the word of "mRNA" should be revised to "total RNA".

**Baishideng Publishing Group Co., Limited**
Flat C, 23/F., Lucky Plaza,
315-321 Lockhart Road,
Wan Chai, Hong Kong, China

**ESPS Peer-review Report**
**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology
**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6377
**Title:** Dynamic slopes of changes in circulating Foxp3+ regulatory T cells and interleukin-17 producing T helper cells along HBV related acute-on-chronic liver failure(ACHBLF) event
**Reviewer code:** 02462700
**Science editor:** Cui, Xue-Mei
**Date sent for review:** 2013-10-16 14:11
**Date reviewed:** 2013-12-01 22:43

| CLASSIFICATION | LANGUAGE EVALUATION | RECOMMENDATION | CONCLUSION |
|---|---|---|---|
| [ ] Grade A (Excellent) | [ ] Grade A: Priority Publishing | Google Search: | [ ] Accept |
| [ ] Grade B (Very good) | [ Y] Grade B: minor language polishing | [ ] Existed | [ ] High priority for publication |
| [ Y] Grade C (Good) | [ ] Grade C: a great deal of language polishing | [ ] No records | [ ]Rejection |
| [ ] Grade D (Fair) | [ ] Grade D: rejected | BPG Search: | [ Y] Minor revision |
| [ ] Grade E (Poor) | | [ ] Existed | [ ] Major revision |
| | | [ ] No records | |

**COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**
This is a good study on the immunity of ACHBLF. However, there are some minor problems in the article. 1.The authors should not put their conclusions in the section of INTRODUCTION (last paragraph in introduction). 2.The authors concluded that "Dynamic increased Treg/Th17 ratio was associated with the survival of ACHBLF patients". It is not very reasonable, because the sample is too small (18 patients) in the study. 3.The language should be carefully revised.