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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:** 7429

**Title:** Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) levels during the natural history of chronic hepatitis B (CHB): A Chinese perspective study

**Reviewer code:** 00071662

**Science editor:** Gou, Su-Xin

**Date sent for review:** 2013-11-18 12:17

**Date reviewed:** 2013-12-04 22:03

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

?t needs to emphasize the importance of clinical applicable status



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Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 7429

Title: Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) levels during the natural history of chronic hepatitis B (CHB): A Chinese perspective study

Reviewer code: 00053634

Science editor: Gou, Su-Xin

Date sent for review: 2013-11-18 12:17

Date reviewed: 2013-12-07 06:56

Table with 4 columns: CLASSIFICATION, LANGUAGE EVALUATION, RECOMMENDATION, CONCLUSION. It lists various grades from A to E and corresponding actions like 'Accept', 'High priority for publication', 'Rejection', 'Minor revision', and 'Major revision'.

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

General comment: The authors aimed at evaluating HBsAg levels in a large cohort of treatment-na?ve HBV-positive patients in different phases of chronic hepatitis the disease in China. The paper is interesting and fairly original. However it needs to be improved before recommending publication Major issues 1) Level of English is poor throughout the manuscript. For example, "Abstrate", line 15-17 of abstract section "Serum HBsAg titers showed most strong correlated with HBV viral load in the IC phase (r=0.683, p<0.001). No correlation between the serum HBsAg level and ALT/AST was observed"; line 9 of introduction "favorable" should read " reliable"; first line of "patient" section: "antivirus" should read antiviral; line 5 of the same section has should read "had"; second line of "Distribution of Serum HBsAg levels" diferences shoud read differences. 2) The authors state that "Markers for co-existent autoimmune disorders and metabolic liver disease were all negative". The authors should list which were these marker of autoimmune and metabolic liver disease 3) The authors should state how they diagnosed liver cirrhosis (liver biopsy, clinically, etc). 4) From statistical analysis section it seems that data are distributed in a non-Gaussian fashion. The authors correctly used non parametric tests such as Spearman test. However, they reported "r" as the correlation test while Spearman test should be reported as "p" 5) Some relevant references are missing and should be included in the reference list together with the relative content (both in introduction and in discussion section): a. Larsson SB, Eilard A, Malmstr?m S, Hannoun C, Dhillon AP, Norkrans G, Lindh M. HBsAg quantification for identification of liver disease in chronic hepatitis B virus carriers. Liver Int. 2013 b. Borgia G, Gentile I. Treating chronic hepatitis B: today and

tomorrow. *Curr Med Chem.* 2006;13(23):2839-55. c. Ramachandran J, Ismail AM, Chawla G, Fletcher GJ, Goel A, Eapen CE, Abraham P. Serum HBsAg quantification in treatment-naïve Indian patients with chronic hepatitis B. *Indian J Gastroenterol.* 2013 Sep 20. d. Chevaliez S. Is HBsAg quantification ready, for prime time? *Clin Res Hepatol Gastroenterol.* 2013 Dec;37(6):559-63. e. Gentile I, Borgia G. Surrogate endpoints and non-inferiority trials in chronic viral hepatitis. *J Hepatol.* 2010 May;52(5):778. f. Martinot-Peignoux M, Asselah T, Marcellin P. HBsAg quantification to predict natural history and treatment outcome in chronic hepatitis B patients. *Clin Liver Dis.* 2013 Aug;17(3):399-412. g. Xun YH, Zang GQ, Guo JC, Yu XL, Liu H, Xiang J, Liu J, Shi JP. Serum hepatitis B surface antigen quantification as a useful assessment for significant fibrosis in hepatitis B e antigen-positive hepatitis B virus carriers. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2013 Nov;28(11):1746-55. h. Borgia G, Carleo MA, Gaeta GB, Gentile I. Hepatitis B in pregnancy. *World J Gastroenterol.* 2012 Sep 14;18(34):4677-83. i. Elefsiniotis IS, Magaziotou I, Brokalaki H, Tsoumakas K. Maternal HBsAg status and infant size: the importance of viral load and HBsAg quantification. *J Viral Hepat.* 2013 Jun;20(6):444. j. Martinot-Peignoux M, Lapalus M, Asselah T, Marcellin P. The role of HBsAg quantification for monitoring natural history and treatment outcome. *Liver Int.* 2013 Feb;33 Suppl 1:125-32. k. Kuo A, Gish R. Chronic hepatitis B infection. *Clin Liver Dis.* 2012 May;16(2):347-69. 6) In the last lines of the manuscript the authors state: "Therefore, these results may have important suggestion for monitoring HBsAg as a response predictor during antiviral treatment as already demonstrated in PEG-IFN, ETV therapy. Future longitudinal studies should be conducted to confirm these results". At my eyes the results of this study have no implication on treatment and therefore all sentences about treatment consequences should be erased.



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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 7429

**Title:** Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) levels during the natural history of chronic hepatitis B (CHB): A Chinese perspective study

**Reviewer code:** 00039470

**Science editor:** Gou, Su-Xin

**Date sent for review:** 2013-11-18 12:17

**Date reviewed:** 2013-12-12 22:27

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"/> Existed	<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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In the present study, authors aimed to determine baseline HBsAg during the different phases of chronic hepatitis B in China. Although the outcomes of this study is weakly related to clinical applications of CHB treatment and CHB drug therapy, that is a well structured and broad based study. Of course, those results are important especially to highlight the pitfalls in current knowledge HBV pathogenesis.



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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 7429

**Title:** Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) levels during the natural history of chronic hepatitis B (CHB): A Chinese perspective study

**Reviewer code:** 00158698

**Science editor:** Gou, Su-Xin

**Date sent for review:** 2013-11-18 12:17

**Date reviewed:** 2013-12-24 22:45

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"/> Existed	<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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This study is to determine the baseline HBsAg levels during each phases of the natural history of chronic hepatitis B. Since the population of hepatitis B carriers in China covers around 1/3 to 1/2 of the world's patients, the baseline data could be used for the further Cohort study in China. It is a notable data to be emphasized that the median HBsAg levels was not different between genotype B and C. Minor issues: 1. English edition is needed. e.g. P.4 line 3: 623 patients --> Six hundred twenty three patients p. 10 line 6; This work was supported by --> duplicated