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## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 28429

**Title:** Occult Hepatitis B Virus Infection is not Associated with Disease Progression of Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection

**Reviewer's code:** 03592355

**Reviewer's country:** United States

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2016-07-01 16:39

**Date reviewed:** 2016-07-31 23:21

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ] High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] No	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This observational study represents an unbiased and well articulated report on the usefulness of occult hepatitis B virus infection (OBI) measurement as prognostic factor for liver disease progression. Although the author found no correlation between OBI and liver disease progression, this study provides additional and potentially useful information for the field. For these reasons this reviewer feels that this study is suitable for publication in the journal. Minor points: Please, reformat the figures so that numbers, axis labels, and lines are more visible In the abstract - background section - please add the word "Objective" after the first paragraph