

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 69861

**Title:** Review on hepatitis B virus precore/core promoter mutations and their correlation with genotypes and liver disease severity

**Provenance and peer review:** Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 04770380

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** DSc, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Russia

**Author's Country/Territory:** India

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-07-14

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-07-15 11:58

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-07-20 15:05

**Review time:** 5 Days and 3 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="radio"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] No
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## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The submitted manuscript entitled “Xihuang pills induce apoptosis and growth inhibition in hepatocellular carcinoma cells by suppressing the PI3K/Akt/mTOR signalling pathway” by Teng YJ et al aimed to study proapoptotic role of Xihuang pills (XHP) in HCC cell line. However, there is a great concern regarding experimental design of this study. First of all, the authors used SMMC-7721 human cell line, which was identified as belonged to false and cross-contaminated cell lines (see Ye F, Chen C, Qin J, Liu J, Zheng C. Genetic profiling reveals an alarming rate of cross-contamination among human cell lines used in China. *FASEB J.* 2015 Oct;29(10):4268-72. doi: 10.1096/fj.14-266718). Second, SMMC-7721 cell viability and apoptosis as well as PI3K/Akt/mTOR signalling were investigated using a XHP extract that is composed of a mixture of different compounds, and it is difficult to judge which compound cause these effects. Instead, the authors are recommended to use any purified XHP component identified by mass- spectrometry. The above-mentioned circumstances make the results obtained in this study invalid and can lead to harmful therapeutic strategies.

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 01221925

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** AGAF, FACS, FICS, MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Greece

**Author's Country/Territory:** India

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-07-14

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-07-14 18:34

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-07-24 09:40

**Review time:** 9 Days and 15 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="radio"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] No
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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This is an interesting paper reviewing HBV promoter mutations and their correlation with genotypes and liver disease severity. Could the authors please respond to the following questions/comments? 1) The author uses a “first person – narrator “ approach, ie “Now I will discuss..”. May wish to reconsider this for a paper. 2) The author may wish to consider adding a discussion section where the potential clinical utility and any efforts to-date in that direction are discussed 3) Could the author elaborate on how these mutations interact with other mutations at other parts of the virus?

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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

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**Provenance and peer review:** Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 04770380

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** DSc, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Russia

**Author's Country/Territory:** India

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-07-14

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jing-Jie Wang (Online Science Editor)

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-12-18 15:42

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-12-24 04:28

**Review time:** 5 Days and 12 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Accept

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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

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**Title:** Review on hepatitis B virus precore/core promoter mutations and their correlation with genotypes and liver disease severity

**Provenance and peer review:** Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05224602

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Doctor, Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** India

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-07-14

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jing-Jie Wang (Online Science Editor)

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-12-24 06:02

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-12-26 04:50

**Review time:** 1 Day and 22 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Accept.