



**Baishideng
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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

Manuscript NO: 90241

Title: Advances in Novel Investigational Agents for Functional Cure of Chronic Hepatitis B: A Comprehensive Review of Phase II and III Therapeutic Agents

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05242826

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Slovakia

Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2023-11-27

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-12-14 15:28

Reviewer performed review: 2023-12-17 11:41

Review time: 2 Days and 20 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
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
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript is a narrative review about current developments in Hepatitis B virus infection therapy. 1 Title. - I suggest rephrasing the title - not phase II and III agents, but "Advances in Novel Investigational Agents for Functional Cure of Chronic Hepatitis B: A Comprehensive Review of the results of Phase II and III trials" 2 Abstract. adequate 3 Key Words. adequate 4 Background. adequate 5 Methods. The relevancy of this type of manuscript greatly depends on the sources of data. I suggest briefly describing the process of search and acquisition of data (authors experience, authors involvement in the research, database search, drug pipeline overview by specialised company, market research etc. This goes particularly for the agents without published results of the studies (table 2) 6 Results. - the coverage of agents and the description of trials is adequate. However I suggest to be more specific when reporting the results of the trials - e.g. in the example below write the exact proportion of patients who achieved endpoint, not 9-10% " B-Clear Trial was a phase 2b, randomized controlled study investigating the efficacy and safety of Bepirovirsen in 457 enrolled patients with chronic HBV when used for 12 and 24 weeks. Results revealed that 9-10% ..." 7 Discussion. not applicable 8



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Illustrations and tables. adequate 9 Biostatistics. not applicable 10 Units. yes 11
References. adequate 12 Quality of manuscript organization and presentation. Is the
manuscript well, concisely and coherently organized and presented? -yes Is the style,
language and grammar accurate and appropriate? - not a native english speaker13
Research methods and reporting. To my knowledge no systematic guideline for the
preparation and publication of narrative reviews exist. 14 Ethics statements.not
applicable 15 specific comments - check spelling - tenofovir disoproxil (not
disoproximal), HBsAg, HbSAg consistency, abbreviations explanation (e.g. LLOQ) I
suggest expanding the conclusions section with authors own opinion on the most
promising candidates, the potential avenues of research with highest likelihood of
success, and maybe timeframe required to develop a cure along with the biggest
scientific obstacles .

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Reviewer's code: 05123258

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MSc, PhD, RN

Professional title: Chief Nurse, Nurse, Postdoc

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Greece

Author's Country/Territory: United States

Manuscript submission date: 2023-11-27

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ru Fan

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-12-23 18:34

Reviewer performed review: 2024-01-03 07:34

Review time: 10 Days and 13 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
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Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript is written in a very unclear way. Editing in English is required. It does not advance the scientific field.