

## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 23873

**Title:** A comprehensive review of telbivudine in pregnant women with chronic hepatitis B

**Reviewer's code:** 00052926

**Reviewer's country:** Greece

**Science editor:** Ya-Juan Ma

**Date sent for review:** 2015-12-22 15:20

**Date reviewed:** 2015-12-31 02:22

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	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"/> The same title	<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"/> 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"/> 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"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a very interesting study on the safety of telbivudine administration in pregnancy and its efficacy in preventing mother-to-child-transmission of HBV infection. The data are well analysed and written and the conclusions are useful particularly for the HBeAg positive mothers with high viral loads. Comments 1. Please determine the maternal HBV DNA in the publications stated in the article if it is possible and add them in Table 3. (Range, median or mean value). 2. What was the maternal HBV DNA in the cases who had vertical transmission of HBV infection despite telbivudine prophylaxis? When the mothers did start telbivudine in these cases (1st, 2nd or 3rd trimester)? 3. From the analysis of trials birth defects in telbivudine cases were not more prevalent than usual. However, in the registry, only 27 cases with telbivudine prophylaxis were reported. Is it safe to draw conclusions from this small number of cases? 4. What the authors believe about the start of antiviral treatment? Is it safe and necessary to start at the 1st, 2nd or 3rd trimester? What do they recommend about the administration of treatment according to maternal viral load? All women with HBV DNA > 10<sup>6</sup>-7 should take antivirals? Please comment both on safety and efficacy of the regimens. 5.



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In the section “Characteristics of the selected cases” the authors report 18 publications and state Table 3. However, Table 3 includes 21 publications, 4 of them being case reports with only 1, 1, 5, 5 individuals. Please make corrections if it is needed.

## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 23873

**Title:** A comprehensive review of telbivudine in pregnant women with chronic hepatitis B

**Reviewer's code:** 00052899

**Reviewer's country:** China

**Science editor:** Ya-Juan Ma

**Date sent for review:** 2015-12-22 15:20

**Date reviewed:** 2016-01-01 23:08

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	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"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		BPG Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In the review, the authors summarized the information of women with HBV infection who were exposed to telbivudine treatment during pregnancy and analyzed the safety and efficacy of telbivudine during pregnancy. They found that telbivudine exposure during pregnancy women with HBV infection had not increased the rates of live birth defects, spontaneous abortion or elective termination. There were no fetal/neonatal toxicity reported during telbivudine treatment. Telbivudine exposure in the second and/or third trimesters of pregnancy could reduce the risk of HBV transmission from mother to child. The topic is interesting and the manuscript is well-written. However, several problems should be corrected. 1. In page 11, there were a total of 18 publications collected which were listed in Table 3. Actually, there were 21 publications in Table 3. 2. "Of the 1673 live births, a total of 6 infants had birth defects". When did telbivudine administrate in these cases? 3. According to the information from antiretroviral pregnancy registry, only 27 patients with telbivudine prophylaxis were included. The sample number might be not enough to conclude that telbivudine exposure during pregnancy women with HBV infection have not increased the rates of



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live birth defects. 4. There are several grammar errors in the manuscript. 5. In the introduction, “tenofovir belong to pregnancy category B”. However, relevant researches of tenofovir in pregnancy patients with HBV infection are limited and could not offer enough evidence for the safety of tenofovir. The authors offered mistaken orientation for tenofovir therapy of pregnant patients with HBV infection.

## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 23873

**Title:** A comprehensive review of telbivudine in pregnant women with chronic hepatitis B

**Reviewer's code:** 00012216

**Reviewer's country:** Spain

**Science editor:** Ya-Juan Ma

**Date sent for review:** 2015-12-22 15:20

**Date reviewed:** 2016-01-08 01:40

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<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"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Teerha Piratvisuth et al carry out a comprehensive review about the efficacy to prevent mother-to-child HBV transmission and about foetal toxicity of telbivudine during pregnancy. The review is well structured and the information summarised is relevant for clinical practice.

## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 23873

**Title:** A comprehensive review of telbivudine in pregnant women with chronic hepatitis B

**Reviewer's code:** 00005855

**Reviewer's country:** Japan

**Science editor:** Ya-Juan Ma

**Date sent for review:** 2015-12-22 15:20

**Date reviewed:** 2016-01-10 11:21

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this review, the authors tried to achieve an evidence-based conclusion regarding the safety and efficacy of telbivudine use in HBV infected pregnant mothers and to confirm the observations from telbivudine preclinical studies. The authors thoroughly collected data and analyzed appropriately pooled data. This review demonstrated the evidence of the safety and usefulness of telbivudine treatment during pregnancy. There are a few issues to be addressed. 1. The authors compared the mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) incidence, and the control incidence was as high as 11.9% in spite of standard immunoprophylaxis. As the authors mentioned, complete ant timely sero-vaccination had a low immunoprophylaxis failure rate of 3%. Is the control group appropriately matched with the telbivudine treatment group? 2. There are two reviews on the similar theme as the present one (references #36 and 37). The difference between the present and former reviews other than accumulation of data thereafter should be discussed. 3. In Tables 1 and 3, vertical lines and redundant horizontal lines should be removed.

## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 23873

**Title:** A comprehensive review of telbivudine in pregnant women with chronic hepatitis B

**Reviewer's code:** 00013065

**Reviewer's country:** Germany

**Science editor:** Ya-Juan Ma

**Date sent for review:** 2015-12-22 15:20

**Date reviewed:** 2016-01-15 18:57

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<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"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this interesting review article Dr. Piratvisuth and colleagues aimed to confirm the safety of telbivudine administration in pregnancy and its efficacy in preventing mother-to-child-transmission of HBV infection by analysing the available literature of this topic. Overall, the presented review article is comprehensive, well and appropriate referenced, and yet concise in its content. The authors analyzed appropriately the collected data. The introduction introduces the following sections well. The review article is informative and interesting to read. However, there are some minor comments which should be addressed. 1. The authors have listed two recent comparable review articles on similar topic (references 36 and 37) but didn't discuss what is new of their report. 2. It is well known that telbivudine will select antiviral resistance. Do the authors have any data concerning emerging of resistance mutations in the selected patients? 3. The authors reported 18 publications in the "characteristics of the selected cases" section in the text and noted 21 in table 3. Please correct.