

Reviewer #1:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade B (Very good)

**Language Quality:** Grade A (Priority publishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (High priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** Manuscript is well written with original findings and have clinical importance.

**Authors' reply:** Many thanks for your recognition of our work!

Reviewer #2:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade D (Fair)

**Language Quality:** Grade C (A great deal of language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Major revision

**Specific Comments to Authors:** Authors presented a rare case with HBV in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) of a bacterial meningitis patient. However, some details should be clarified.

**Authors' reply:** Thank you very much for your valuable comments. Please kindly note that we have rearranged the structure of case presentation during the revision, according to the editorial office requirements.

1. Was this patient aware that he had been infected with HBV before or during the admission to hospital?

**Authors' reply:** Thanks for your valuable comments. The patient didn't know.

2. Authors should present the patient's HBV serum markers.

**Authors' reply:** Thank you very much for your valuable comments. The patient's HBV serum markers have been already provided in Case Presentation section (highlighted in yellow for your convenience). We have also added the detailed detection results (highlighted in red).

3. According to the previous medical literature, HBV DNA is found in the CFS of HIV-infected patients. Was HIV test given to this patient?

**Authors' reply:** Yes, the patient had undergone HIV test, and the result showed negative.

4. Did the patient have any chronic diseases? Was he taking any medications?

**Authors' reply:** No chronic disease. Thanks.

5. Was the patient's skull and ribs fractured 15 years ago or 5 years ago?

**Authors' reply:** Thanks for your valuable comments. These information was provided in Case Presentation section (highlighted in yellow for your convenience). And the patient had fractured the skull and ribs in a car accident 15 years prior.

6. Why did authors think the meningitis in this case was due to the effects of a previous accident?

**Authors' reply:** We suspected that the rhinorrhea was resulted from the skull fracture in previous accident, thus the meningitis in this case might also be affected by the original accident.

7. Authors should report the quantity of HBV DNA in the blood and in the CFS before and after treatment.

**Authors' reply:** Thank you very much kind suggestions. Whereas, during the treatment, HBV was tested only once.

8. Should authors mention how the presence of HBV DNA in CFS contributed to the disease severity?

**Authors' reply:** Thanks for your valuable comments and professional suggestions. However, we found little related study of the affecting on other diseases of HBV in CFS, thus how the presence of HBV DNA in CFS contributed to the disease severity was still unclear. Meanwhile, we have mentioned this point in Discussion section (highlighted in yellow for your convenience).

Reviewer #3:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade C (Good)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (General priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** Rare case and need to pay attention.

**Authors' reply:** Many thanks for your recognition of our work!

## Round 2

Reviewer #1:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade C (Good)

**Language Quality:** Grade A (Priority publishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (General priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** I agree to authors' answers and revised manuscript.

**Authors' reply:** Many thanks for your reviewing.