

October 31, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: The relationships between lymphomas linked to HCV infection and their microenvironment(R).docx).

**Title:** The relationships between lymphomas linked to HCV infection and their microenvironment.

**Author:** Antonino Carbone

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5178

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers

**In response to Reviewer 02449596**

*The manuscript by Carbone and Gloghini is a very interesting and well written review on the association between lymphomas and HCV infection.*

*I just have a minor comment related to mixed cryoglobulinemia (MC). In page 5 paragraph 1, "... It has also been suggested that HCV antigens (NS3 and E7or E2) can play a role in lymphomagenesis[18,19] ..." Recently, it has been published that HCV-related cryoglobulins (either IgM and IgG) are mainly directed against core and NS3 proteins. Probably this should be mentioned by the authors (Minopetrou M. et al Clin Vaccine Immunol. 2013 May;20(5):698-703.)*

According to the Reviewer comment in the revised manuscript a new sentence and related reference (new reference 20) has been added in the HCV and lymphomagenesis section: "Recently, it has been published that HCV-related cryoglobulins (either IgM and IgG) are mainly directed against core and NS3 proteins<sup>[20]</sup>."

*Minor changes: Page 2: line 10 from top "...association..." should be corrected "...association..."*

The term "association" has been corrected

**In response to Reviewer 00002243**

*1. A large number of abbreviations have been used. Please explain each when first used (e.g., Introduction, para 4: IARC, KSHV)*

The abbreviations have been explained

*2. Introduction, para 5: Please note that HBV has both a direct and indirect in promoting HCC. Chronic HBV carriers can develop HCC without developing cirrhosis. This should be change in Table 1 as well.*

According to the Reviewer comment in the revised manuscript a new sentence has been added in the Introduction section: "Hepatitis B virus (HBV) has both a direct and indirect role in promoting hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC); as a matter of fact, chronic HBV carriers can develop HCC without developing cirrhosis."

Furthermore, Table 1 has been modified accordingly.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

**Antonino Carbone, M.D.**

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