

May 13st, 2021

Lian-Sheng Ma

Science Editor, Company Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Office

Dear Editor,

We are pleased to know that our article is being considered for publication in your journal. We have carefully reviewed our letter according to the reviewer's comments, which we believe have contributed to enriching the paper. Below you will find our point-by-point response to the reviewers' suggestions, as well as the corresponding changes in the full text.

With kind regards,

Maria Buti

Reviewer #1:

Specific Comments to Authors:

1. Add healthy control in bracket after asymptomatic control in method of abstract or remove asymptomatic control.
2. Correct with dyslipidemia of dyslipemia.
3. Add diabetes after dyslipidemia in core tip as independent factor for carotid plaques.
4. Remove in those cases with from 6th line of introduction and add when they have after inactive carriers (IC).
5. Add the diseases in brackets after these diseases in 12-13 line of introduction.
6. Remove factors from 18 line of introduction (3rd para).
7. Add healthy control inspite of asymptomatic controls in last para of introduction.
8. Remove this line Finally, we performed a revision of the current literature in this regard from last para of introduction.
9. Write Two hundred one (201) patients with chronic HBV infection inspite of Two hundred and one patients with chronic infection by HBV in patients and method section.
10. Write Two hundred one (201) healthy individuals inspite of two hundred and one non-infected asymptomatic individuals.
11. Add Healthy control in bracket after asymptomatic control in fine line of first para of result section.

12. In second para in first line of result section write full form of ICs.

13. Write full form of CAP levels in 16 line of result section.

14. Write full form of GGT on page 10 2nd line.

Thank you for your comments. The new version of the manuscript includes all the suggested changes.

Science editor

References: A total of 29 references are cited, including 1 reference published in the last 3 years; (5) Self-cited references: There are 5 self-cited references. The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%. Please keep the reasonable self-citations that are closely related to the topic of the manuscript, and remove other improper self-citations.

We have removed some of the self-cited references and in the current version of the manuscript there are only 2 self-cited references.

The STROBE Statement needs to add page number.

We have added the page number.

The authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s).

The approved grant form is provided.

The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor.

We have attached the figures in Powerpoint format.

The "Article Highlights" section is missing. Please add the "Article Highlights" section at the end of the main text.

An Article Highlights section has been added to the text.