

6 February 2024

Respected Sir/Madam

Reference#: 90711

Title: Quantitative hepatitis B core antibody and quantitative hepatitis B surface antigen: Novel viral biomarkers for chronic hepatitis B management

I am hereby giving points response to your comments;

Reviewer #1

Comment #1: 1. In page 7 5th line: "Instead of directly interacting with cccDNA, NAs only inhibit HBV DNA" sentence not clear. "inhibit HBV DNA synthesis".

Author answer: Thank you very much for your valuable comments. I already modified the sentence to clarify this issue.

Comment #2: 2. In page 18 2th paragraph: the 3rd sentence should read: Using the iTACT-assays, they discovered that 154/418 (36.8%) of the samples obtained following seroclearance had HBsAg.

Author answer: Thank you for your suggestion. I already changed the words for clearer.

Comment #3: 3. Page 22, the 2nd sentence of the first chapter: "this investigation" can it be explained a bit more? which investigation?

Author answer: Thank you. I already modified as your suggestion.

Comment #4: 4. Page 22, the last sentence of the first chapter: In reference 80, they aimed to identify predictors of seroconversion using serum quantitative HBsAg and HBcrAg, in HBeAg-positive patients treated with nucleos(t)ide analogues (NA) in a retrospective analysis. while you pointed out in the article "they deduced that PEG-IFN α -2a-based therapies might attain greater amounts of HBsAg clearance, as measured by qHBsAg and seroconversion, and these treatments posed no risk to inactive HBsAg carriers[80]." Whether the literature was misused?

Author answer: Thank you very much. It was my mistake about the citation. I already corrected this issue.

Best regards,

W. Leowattana

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