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March 14, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 9015-review.doc).

Title: Prevention of hepatocellular carcinoma in patients with chronic hepatitis B

Authors: Conrado M. Fernández-Rodríguez and Maria Luisa Gutierrez Garcia

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9015

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

1. Major points. The authors should describe "Introduction" more concisely. Alternatively, they can add Chapters, such as "Risk factors for HBV-realated hepatocarcinogenesis". Authors' response: We thank the reviewer for helpful comments to improve the manuscript. We have divided the Introduction into 'Introduction and a section entitled 'Long-term viral suppression and liver-related outcomes in chronic hepatitis b'. Therefore, the introduction has been shortened.
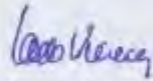
2. Minor points. The authors should discuss some points in more detail. (1) HBV-related serum markers and hepatocarcinogenesis (relevant studies by Tseng et al.: PMID 22941922 and 22333950). (2) Preventive effects of antiviral therapy on HBV-related hepatocarcinogenesis (relevant study by Gordon et al.: PMID 24107395). Authors' response: As suggested, the two articles from Tseng dealing with the role of HBsAg levels in HBV hepatitis progression and risk of HCC development have been added to the manuscript. In addition, the paper by Gordon et al. has been incorporated to the manuscript as well to discuss the impact of treatment on HCC risk reduction.

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

Sincerely yours,

Sincerely yours,

Dr Conrado M Fernández-Rodríguez

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