Author’s response to reviews

Title: Genetic variability in the precore and core promoter regions of hepatitis B virus strains in Karachi

Authors:

Zaigham Abbas (zaigham@akunet.org)
Rana Muzaffar (rmuzafar@super.net.pk)
Arif Siddiqui (info@siut.org)
Syed AA Naqvi (siutpk@sat.net.pk)
Syed AH Rizvi (siutpk@sat.net.pk)

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The Editor
BMC-Gastroenterology
BioMed Central
Middlesex House
34-42 Cleveland Street
London W1T 4LB

Thank you for accepting our article for publication in your esteemed journal.

We have made the following changes according to your suggestions

1. More detail given in the background section of the abstract.
2. Actual name of the hospital ethics committee given that approved the study given.
3. Made Table 2 more concise.

4. Dividing study patients into four subgroups as suggested by the reviewer 3 is not serving any useful purpose. We have also done the analysis in that way. There were no statistical differences in the laboratory parameters and presence of clinical cirrhosis in patients harboring the wild virus compared to the mutant variant in both HBeAg negative and positive groups. We have mentioned this in "Results" and have maintained the table as such.

We hope the papers will now be ready for publication

Kind regards

Dr. Zaigham Abbas
zaigham@cyber.net.pk
zaigham@akunet.org