Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of prevalent point mutations and mutation combinations at BCP and precore regions of HBV during liver disease progression

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Reviewer: Antonio Bertoletti

Reviewer's report:

I went through the manuscript, checking the reviewer's comments and author's reply.

The manuscript is of limited importance but is otherwise OK. However, I am not convinced about the change of the title and the continuous use of the term "Effect" of viral mutations on disease progression.

The authors have only show some associations between mutations and disease severity or HBeAg presence. I would therefore suggest that they return to using the previous title since the authors did not test directly any effect of viral mutations on disease severity and on other viral parameters.

The abstract is also not clear, the authors wrote: "the effect of mutation combinations in these two regions during chronic infection in viral genome are less understood".

but they are not clarifying what effect they would like to study and on what.

Again the term "effect" was improperly used.