Author's response to reviews

Title: Molecular Epidemiology of Hepatitis B Virus Genotypes in Pakistan

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Cover Letter

The following revisions have been made in the revised submission according to the recommendations by reviewers.

1- Background of genotypes epidemiology has been revised.
2- Tables have been added to describe the demographics (geographical distribution, age, gender)
3- The figures have been omitted on reviewer's recommendation

Authors’ Replies

Respected Dr. Hakan Leblebicioglu

Thanks for the critical review of the manuscript and your encouraging remarks. Following are the replies to your valuable comments.

1. Yes, it represents the molecular epidemiology of HBV genotypes in Pakistan because this is the first study from Pakistan analyzing the samples of HBV infected individuals from all the four provinces of Pakistan as presented in Table No. 2 and Table No. 3.

2. The demographics of the study population have been included by tables.

3. No, the study samples were all from Pakistani patients. There was not any single subject from outside Pakistan.
Respected Dr. Helene Norder

Thanks for the critical review of the manuscript and your encouraging remarks. Following are the replies to your valuable comments.

1. The geographic distribution of different genotypes in the country has been presented in the form of Tables according to your helpful suggestions.
2. The results have been presented in the form of Tables as per your recommendations.
3. Figures 1 and 2 have been omitted.
4. The geographical distribution of the HBV genotypes described in the Background part of the manuscript has been corrected.

Respected Dr. Kendal Yalcin

Thanks for the critical review of the manuscript and your encouraging remarks. Following are the replies to your valuable comments.

1. Explain why the serum samples were not tested for HDV and HCV?
Due to the limitations of funding (Research Resources), it was not possible for the Research team to analyze the test samples for Hepatitis D virus or Hepatitis C virus.
2. ALT activity of patients has been included as presented in Figure No. 1
3. In Discussion section, comments about the age distribution of genotypes have been added. Also, it has been presented in the form of Tables.