Reviewer's report

Title: Molecular Epidemiology of Hepatitis B Virus Genotypes in Pakistan

Version: 1 Date: 13 June 2007

Reviewer: Helene Norder

Reviewer's report:

General
This manuscript describes genotyping of HBV of 101 strains from Pakistan by type specific PCR. Genotypes D was as expected predominant, followed by genotype B and A. Since this is one of the first studies on HBV genotypes in Pakistan, the data should be presented more thoroughly.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The geographical distribution of the different genotypes in the country should be discussed. Genotype B is most probably found in populations from the Eastern part of the country, while D is most probably found in populations originating from the Northern and Western part.

The results should be presented in tables.
One table should contain the origin and results from the HBsAg testing of the 690 individuals included in the study.
Like:
Origin number of patients number HBsAg pos

A second table should contain the origin, age and genotypes as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N</th>
<th>number genotype A</th>
<th>genotype B</th>
<th>genotype D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Origin 1</td>
<td>Age 1-20</td>
<td>21-30</td>
<td>31-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Origin 2</td>
<td>Age 1-20</td>
<td>21-30</td>
<td>31-40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figures 1 and 2 should be omitted.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The geographical distribution of the HBV genotypes described in the Background part of the manuscript should be corrected.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.