Reviewer's report

**Title:** Impact of viral replication inhibition by Entecavir on peripheral T lymphocyte subpopulations in chronic hepatitis B patients

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 19 February 2008

**Reviewer:** Antonio Bertoletti

**Reviewer's report:**

In this manuscript You et al. analyze the frequency of total CD4 and CD8 + T cells in the peripheral blood of patients with HBV chronic infection and treated with Entecavir.

It is my opinion, that the simple analysis of the phenotype without any attempts to analyze the functionality of the cells or the frequency of HBV-specific T cells is meaningless.

It is for example not clear why a change of the ration between CD4 and CD8 should be consider a functional restoration of immunity during HBV infection. Increase number of CD4 does not mean better HBV-specific T cell function and HBV is not infecting and killing directly CD4 cells like HIV.

In addition, the comparison made by the authors between phenotypic data and previous results related to HBV-specific T cell function and frequency are completely speculative.

**What next?:** Reject because scientifically unsound

**Level of interest:** An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interest