Reviewer's report

Title: Molecular epidemiology and phylogenetic analysis of Hepatitis B virus in a group of migrants in Italy.

Version: 2 Date: 5 May 2015

Reviewer: HSIN-FU LIU

Reviewer's report:

In this manuscript, the authors reported molecular epidemiology and phylogenetic analysis of Hepatitis B virus in a group of migrants in Italy. This is an interesting issue for epidemiology of infectious diseases and also is important for monitoring viral spread and evolution. The manuscript is well written and suitable for publication. There are only few minor comments.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The authors indicated that the sequences will be submitted to GenBank after the acceptance of the article. However, in most of cases, sequences shall submit to GenBank database to obtain accession numbers before publication, and they shall provide in the article. Authors are strongly suggested to do this before publication rather than after. Accession numbers can keep confidential by GenBank if the authors prefer not to release them before publication.

2. Sequence quality control is essential for phylodynamic analysis. The authors has performed likelihood mapping for phylogenetic signal, but how about recombination? Authors shall explain how they exclude the possibility of sequence recombination by means of any specific method (e.g. RDP).

3. In figure 2, authors shall describe the meaning of the vertical line appeared between 1997 and 2000 in the BSP.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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 interests.