Reviewer’s report

Title: HBV/HIV co-infection and APOBEC3G polymorphisms in a population from Burkina Faso

Version: 0 Date: 24 Mar 2016

Reviewer: Yong-Tang Zheng

Reviewer's report:

Comments to the Authors,

Rebeca CT et al. examined the association between HIV/HBV-coinfection and APOBEC3G polymorphisms in a population from Burkina Faso. They found HIV/HBV-coinfected patients had higher prevalence of HBV infection than HIV-negative subjects. This is very reasonable as a result of both viruses share similar routes of transmission. They also found the minor genotype GG of rs6001417 and the T minor allele and TT genotype of rs35228351 were higher in HIV/HBV-seronegative subjects, suggesting a potential protective role of these alleles or genotypes against HIV/HBV-coinfection. However, there are several issues that need to be clarified.

Major point:

1) The authors previously found the G and T minor allele or GG and TT genotype of rs6001417 and rs35228351 are much lower in HIV-monoinfected patients. It is very difficult to make a conclusion of the T minor allele of virant rs35228351 was protective against HIV/HBV co-infection without determining the status of the three variants genotypes in HBV-monoinfected patients. These genotypes or alleles may be only affected (or associated with) HIV-monoinfection.

2) Whether the HIV/HBV-coinfected patients in this manuscript are part of the HIV-seropositive subjects reported in your previous study.
Minor points:

1) Table 1 "Mean Age +/- SD", but the number is "+-", which is not corresponding.

2) What is the status of HIV-1 subtypes in the tested patients, as the subtypes of HIV-1 are also associated with the polymorphisms of APOBEC3G.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

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Needs some language corrections before being published
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