Author’s response to reviews

Title: Comparison of hepatitis E virus prevalenceseroprevalence between HBsAg-positive population and healthy controls in Shandong province, China

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Point-by-point response

Editor Comments:

1. Thank you for providing a statement confirming written consent was obtained from all participants. Please also clarify whether any minors (16+) were included in the patient sample in the methods section of your manuscript. If so, please clarify in the Ethics approval and consent to participate section whether consent was obtained from a parent or guardian on behalf of any participants under the age of 16.

Response: Seventy participants were below 18 years old and the written consents were obtained from their guardians. We have clarified it in Ethics approval and consent to participate section, line 286-287, page 14.
2. We note the addition of a new author, Zechun Jiang, since the original submission of the manuscript. In line with COPE guidelines, BioMed Central requires written confirmation from all authors that they agree with any proposed changes in authorship of submitted manuscripts. We would therefore need to ask that all authors complete our change of authorship form, which can be downloaded from http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship.

Response: The authorship form has been uploaded according to the COPE guidelines.

3. Please represent authors' names using their full initials in the Authors’ Contributions section. If there are any duplicated initials (Jingjing Lv and Jiaye Liu), please differentiate them to make it clear that the initials refer to separate authors.

Response: All authors’ names were listed using their full initials as requested in Contributions section, line 276-280, pages 13-14.

4. We would also like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of Li Li, Guoming Zhang and Fuzhen Wang, as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship. Contribution to data collection, alone, does not usually justify authorship. We also ask that you clarify the contributions of Fuzhen Wang who is listed as an author but not mentioned in the authors’ contributions section.

Response: The contribution of the authors including Fuzhen Wang has been justified in the Contributions section, line 276-280, pages 13-14.

5. Please include a statement in the Authors' contributions section to the effect that all authors have read and approved the manuscript, and ensure that this is the case.

Response: The statement has been added in the Authors' contributions section, line 280-281, page 14.

6. Please include the email addresses for all authors on the title page. The corresponding author should still be indicated. Please also ensure all email addresses and names of authors provided in the manuscript and the submission system match.

Response: The email addresses for all authors have been added on the title page (line 7-17).
7. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response: All revision tracks have been accepted before uploading and the figures were uploaded as separate files.