Author’s response to reviews

Title: Vitamin D receptor Apal polymorphism associated with progression of liver disease in Vietnamese patients chronically infected with Hepatitis B virus

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Dear Editors

We herewith would like to submit our original manuscript titled “Vitamin D receptor Apal polymorphism associated with progression of liver disease in Vietnamese patients chronically infected with Hepatitis B virus” to be considered for publication in the BMC Medical Genetics. We hereby affirm that all authors have read the manuscript and agreed to its submission. This study has no financial insights and we certify that this manuscript consists of original and unpublished work which is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

We have included all necessary documents including a STROBE check list for case-control studies. Vitamin D derivatives and their receptor (VDR) are potent modulators of immune responses in various diseases, including malignancies as well as in metabolic and infectious disorders. The impact of vitamin D receptor polymorphisms on clinical outcomes of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is not well understood. This study aims to investigate the potential role of the vitamin D receptor
polymorphisms TaqI, FokI, ApaI, and BsmI in Vietnamese HBV-infected patients and to correlate these polymorphisms with the severity of HBV-related liver disease. VDR polymorphisms were genotyped by DNA sequencing and in-house validated ARMS assays in 443 HBV infected patients and 238 healthy control individuals. The main findings are that among the four VDR polymorphisms, ApaI variant is associated with the clinical outcome and liver disease progression in Vietnamese HBV-infected patients.

We do believe that this study will be of greater interest to readers of the BMC Medical Genetics and also trust that our findings will be considered suitable for publication in the BMC Medical Genetics.

Sincerely,
Dr. Nghiem Xuan Hoan

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