Author’s response to reviews

Title: Self-motivated medical care-seeking behaviors and disease progression in a community-based cohort of chronic hepatitis B virus-infected patients in China

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Reviewer reports:

Kwenti Emmanuel Tebit, Ph.D (Reviewer 3): Reviewer’s comments

The manuscript has been substantially improved on. I recommend acceptance after the following minor revision:

Minor revision

Title: …medical care-seeking behaviors…

Response: done. We have revised the title.
Abstract:

Line 46 - 48: I suggest you rather report the age group with the lowest medical care-seeking behavior which is participants 50 years and above.

Response: we have added this information in line 44-45 as “The lowest medical care-seeking rate (26%) was in participants over 50-year old.”

The second objective was to examine the disease progression, it is important to include these results in the abstract as well.

Response: We have added these results in line 56-58 as “Among non-antiviral-treated HBV-infected cases, we found the annual rates for HBsAg sero-clearance, progress to cirrhosis and HCC were 1.0%, 0.6% and 0.2%, respectively.”

Line 59 - 61 is not clear. Rephrase.

Response: We have revised this sentence in line 61-62 as “and conducting extensive education to promote HBV-infected patients actively seeking medical care from hospitals.”

Background:

Line 94: …their medical care-seeking behaviors…

Response: Done,

Line 95: Delete "impact"

Response: Done, we have deleted the “impact” in line 96.

Line 96: We observed the disease progression after…

Response: Done, we have revised this sentence in line 97 as “we observed the disease progression after a 5-year follow-up”.

Methods:

Line 105: …or hepatitis D virus…

Response: Done, we have revised as “hepatitis D virus ”in line 110.

Line 128: …above mentioned criteria…
Response: Done, we have corrected the spelling mistake in 129.


Response: We have revised this sentence in line 132-135 as “The patients were classified as having self-motivated medical care behavior for HBV-related diseases by providing related evidence during the study period, such as hospital diagnostic records, prescriptions or hospital testing results”

Line 137: …loss to follow-up…

Response: Done, we have changed these words in 138 as “reduce the loss to follow-up”

Line 138: …medical care-seeking behaviors…

Response: Done. We have added this word in line 138-139 as “investigate the medical care-seeking behaviors”

Line 150: …a person-year…

Response: Done. We have changed these words in line 151 as “by a person-year using the life table method”

Results:

Line 163: Change "living area" to "area of residence"

Response: Done, we have changed these words in line 164 as “area of residence (rural or urban)”

Line 179: …medical care-seeking behaviors…

Response: Done, we have added this word in line 180 as “in both the active medical care-seeking behaviors”

Line 181: …detected in the active medical care-seeking behaviors…

Response: Done, we have added this word in line 182as “detected the active medical care-seeking behaviors of chronic HBV-infected persons”

Title of Table 2: The active medical care-seeking behaviors…

Response: Done, we have revised the Table 2 title as “The active medical care-seeking behaviors and treatment situations among chronic HBV-infected persons, China, 2009-2014”
Table 3: Revise the title for clarity.

Response: Done, we have revised the Table 3 title as “The risk factors associated with the active medical care-seeking behaviors and antiviral treatments in chronic HBV-infected persons, China, 2009-2014”

Discussion:

Line 215: …the chronic HBV infections were acquired…

Response: Done, we have revised this sentence in line 216 as “In China, 80-90% of the chronic HBV infections were acquired through mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) in the prevaccine era”

Line 219: …and HCC (from 0 to 0.5%) increased…

Response: Done, we have changed the word “increase” to “increased” in line 220.

Line 224: …than is generally acknowledged.

Response: Done, we have changed the word “general” to “generally” in line 225.

Line 238 & 247: …our study…

Response: Done, we have changed the word “studies” to “study” in line 239 and line 248.

Line 258: …treated as priority…

Response: Done, we have changed the word “on” to “as” in line 259.

Line 269: …rate of active medical care-seeking behavior…

Response: Done, we have added the words “care-seeking” in line 270.


Response: Done, we have added the words “care-seeking” in line 276

Line 286: …covered the urban population normally…

Response: Done, we have changed the word “people” to “population” in line 287.

Line 295: Firstly…

Response: Done.

Line 296: Secondly…
Response: Done.

Line 298: Thirdly…

Response: Done.