20-january-2023

Dear Prof Dr. Domfeh,

You submitted a manuscript ID AJGH-2212-1025 entitled "Evaluation of inflammatory and liver injury biomarkers among drug-naive chronic viral hepatitis B patients: a case study in a referral laboratory, Ghana." to the African Journal of gastroenterology and hepatology.  The reviewer's comments (s) are included at the end of this email.

The reviewers have requested revisions to your manuscript.  Therefore, I invite you to respond to the reviewers' comments and revise your manuscript. Instructions on how to do this can be found at the bottom of this email.

Because we are trying to facilitate the timely publication of manuscripts submitted to the African journal of gastroenterology and hepatology, your revised manuscript should be submitted as soon as possible.

Once again, thank you for submitting your manuscript to the African Journal of gastroenterology and hepatology, and I look forward to receiving your revision.

Sincerely,

Salem Y Mohamed

Chief Editor, African Journal of gastroenterology and hepatology

Please, revise your manuscript using a word processing program and save it on your computer.  Please also highlight the changes to your manuscript within the document using the track changes mode in MS Word or using bold or colored text.

Once the revised manuscript is prepared, you can send it to me via email.

Please provide your responses and details of changes made to each comment in an Author Response Letter when submitting your revised manuscript.  To expedite the processing of the revised manuscript, please be as specific as possible in your response to the reviewers.

**Reviewer Comments to Author:**

**Reviewer1:**

The idea of this research is valuable, and the English phrasing is adequate, with only seldom grammar mistakes. Therefore, for this manuscript to be accepted for publication, only some minor corrections are to be made.

1. Why you enrolled only 146 cases in the study, despite the estimated sample size being 165 cases?

2. How could you distinguish acute from chronic HBV infection?

**Reviewer 2:**

(Inflammatory and liver injury biomarkers in chronic HBV) your title about chronic HBV, WHY did you not exclude acute HBV?

Why did you not exclude malignant diseases?

The study needs some clinical data.

You may need to decrease the number of tables.

Liver ultrasound and fibroscan were needed in the workup.

**Reviewer 3:**

Result in tables 5 and 6. It is better to separate chronic from acute and active from inactive in a separate table.

**Reviewer 4:**

Dear editor, please confirm that the author confirms all comments

Please revise the notes related to the title and sample size calculation.

Check the uploaded file.

**Editor Comments to Author:**

1. Please check the author names and affiliations included on your Title Page, mainly that the spelling of all authors' names is correct. They are cited in the order you wish them to appear in the final article. In addition, each author's affiliation details are correct.

2. Please include a 'Structured Abstract': not more than 250 words, broken down into, i.e., Aims, Patients & Methods/Materials & Methods, Results, and Conclusions. For authors presenting the results of clinical trials, the guidelines recommended by CONSORT should be followed when writing the abstract (http://www.consort-statement.org/), and the clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract, where available.

3. Please include up to 10 keywords in your revised manuscript (including the four keywords you selected as part of the submission process).

4. Please amend the references as per the author's guidelines:

a. References should be numerically listed in the reference section in the order in which they occur in the text.

b. References should appear as a number, i.e., [1, 2] in the text.

c. References should cite three authors et al.: it is our house style to list a maximum of six authors, and if there is more than this, three authors et al.

5. Please ensure that all tables and boxes are titled and cited in the text.

Please find a link to the African Journal of gastroenterology and hepatology Author Guidelines which explains these sections in more detail: <https://ajgh.journals.ekb.eg/journal/authors.note>.

6. please check the PDF file of your manuscript regarding plagiarism checking.

7. Please add the scale bar, annotations, magnifications, and program that generated these figures. Also, it is better to submit figures with high resolution and brightness.