**Response to Reviewers' Comments**

**Reviewer 1:**

1. **There are seldom grammatical errors in the manuscript.**

**Authors' response:** the authors have corrected the grammatical errors using Grammarly premium.

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

**Authors' response:** the authors enrolled 146 cases because these patients agreed to be enrolled in the study. However, as suggested by reviewer 4, the write-up of the sample size has been modified to reflect only 146 patients and 64 age and sex-matched controls.

1. **How could you distinguish acute from chronic HBV infection?**

**Authors' response:** the authors distinguished between acute and chronic infection based on the presence of anti-HBC IgM in HBV patients' sera. The authors have modified the write-up under "Determination of viral serological and inflammatory markers" to include how the acute infection was distinguished from the chronic infection among the patients.

**Reviewer 2:**

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

**Authors' response:** the authors have modified the heading of the manuscript to generalize it as suggested by reviewer 4. The modified heading is "Evaluation of inflammatory and liver injury biomarkers among drug-naive viral hepatitis B patients: A study in a referral laboratory, Ghana."

1. **Why did you not exclude malignant diseases?**

**Authors' response:** the authors excluded malignant diseases, but it was an error. It should have been included in the write-up. The authors have modified the exclusion criteria to include it.

1. **The study needs some clinical data.**

**Authors' response:** clinical data were not presented in the manuscript because patients with other conditions that will have affected the parameters assessed were excluded from the study.

1. **You may need to decrease the number of tables.**

**Authors' response:** the authors believe that all the tables contain relevant data, so they need to be in the manuscript.

1. **Liver ultrasound and fibroscan were needed in the workup.**

**Authors' response:** the authors agree with the reviewer that an ultrasound scan and fibroscan were needed in the study. However, the authors needed more resources for these scans. They have been included as limitations of this study.

**Reviewer 3:**

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

**Authors' response:** separating the tables as suggested by the reviewer will increase the number of tables. In contrast, reviewer 2 suggested that the authors decrease the number of tables. The authors believe that tables 5 and 6 in their current forms are simple to understand or interpret.

**Reviewer 4:**

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

**Authors' response:** the authors have revised the manuscript according to the comments and corrections suggested by the reviewer in the uploaded file.

**Editor Comments to Author:**

1. **Please check the authors’ names and affiliations included on your Title Page, mainly to ensure 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.**

**Authors' response:** the authors have checked the title page.

1. **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.**

**Authors' response:** the authors have provided a structured abstract. However, our study was not a clinical trial, so the registration number was not included.

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

**Authors' response:** the authors have increased the keywords to 10.

1. **Please amend the references as per the author's guidelines:**
2. References should be numerically listed in the reference section in the order in which they occur in the text.
3. References should appear as a number, i.e., [1, 2] in the text.
4. 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.

**Authors' response:** the authors have amended the reference style.

1. **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**](https://ajgh.journals.ekb.eg/journal/authors.note)**.**

**Authors' response:** the authors have titled all tables and cited them in the text.

1. **Please check the PDF file of your manuscript regarding plagiarism checking.**

**Authors' response:** the authors have used Grammarly premium to check for plagiarism, and the report was 3% without the reference list (13% including the reference list).

1. **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.**

**Authors' response:** the authors did not present figures in the manuscript.