

## **Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Antiviral therapy in acute viral hepatitis B: why and when

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 1 August 2008

**Reviewer:** Luigi Buonaguro

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The Letter to Editor "Antiviral therapy in acute viral hepatitis B : why and when." by Morelli et al., the authors suggest the use of antiviral drugs in elderly patients affected by acute viral Hepatitis B with a reduced immune functions.

The proposed anti-retroviral treatment in this specific sub-group of HBV-infected subject is very interesting and could be of high relevance when verified in an appropriate clinical trial.

The text should be revised for improving the clarity of the message. In particular:

- 1) the authors should speculate more in detail on the impact of the reduced HBV DNA, obtained through the anti-retroviral treatment, on the conflicting detrimental immunopathology and beneficial immune response mediated by T cells;
- 2) in addition, the authors should speculate more in detail on how the reduced HBV DNA would counterbalance the immune-suppressive effects of the CD4+CD25+ Tregs, possibly involved in the inefficient viral clearance.

The text should be checked for words' misspelling. Reference 1, is not present in the text.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.