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HBV-RNAs and HBcrAg in patients with CHD

Pietro Lampertico, MD, PhD

Gastroenterology and Hepatology Division
Fondazione IRCCS Cà Granda - Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico
University of Milan - Italy

Disclosures

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- ROCHE PHARMA/DIAGNOSTICS, GILEAD SCIENCES, GSK, ABBVIE, JANSSEN, MYR, EIGER, ANTIOS, ALIGOS, VIR, GRIFOLS, ALTONA, ROBOSCREEN
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Outline of the presentation

- Background and rationale for HBV RNA and HBcrAg
 - New HBV biomarkers in untreated CHD patients
 - New HBV biomarkers in pegIFN-treated CHD
 - New HBV biomarkers in BLV-treated patients
 - Summary and conclusions
-

HBcrAg levels in untreated CHD patients

Quantification of serum HBV and HDV markers in untreated CHD patients

A cross-sectional collaborative study (Italy and Romania)

122 untreated CHD patients included in the study (100% GT 1 and D)

HBV and HDV markers according to disease stage

		Cirrhosis		P	Multivariate		
		Absent	Present		OR	95% CI	P
		n = 20	n = 89				
HBeAg Status	HBeAg+	0 (0.0)	8 (9.0)	.347			
	HBeAg-	20 (100.0)	81 (91.0)				
HBV-DNA (log ₁₀ IU/mL)	Median	1.41	1.03	.302			
	Range	0.70-4.66	0.70-5.34				
HBsAg (log ₁₀ IU/mL)	Median	4.02	3.87	.211			
	Range	-1.00-4.48	-1.00-4.46				
Total anti-HBc (IU/mL)	Median	1267.49	557.02	.097			
	Range	58.52-9978.66	14.60-20564.87				
HBcrAg (log ₁₀ U/mL)	Median	3.84	3.90	.742			
	Range	2.00-6.29	2.00-6.21				
HDV-RNA (log ₁₀ cp/mL)	Median	3.79	4.32	.071			
	Range	2.70-6.29	2.70-6.82				
IgM anti-HDV (AU/mL)	Median	22	40	.050			
	Range	10-107	10-200				
Total anti-HDV	≤1:100	3 (15.0)	6 (6.7)	.433			
	≤1:5000	9 (45.0)	49 (55.1)				
	≤1:50 000	8 (40.0)	34 (38.2)				
Total anti-HBc/ IgM anti-HDV	Median	28.35	10.86	.042	0.990	0.981-0.999	
	Range	0.87-997.87	0.10-425.96				

HBV and HDV markers according to disease activity

		ALT > ULN		P	Multivariate		
		No	Yes		OR	95% CI	P
		n = 26	n = 83				
HBeAg Status	HBeAg+	0 (0.0)	8 (9.6)	.194			
	HBeAg-	26 (100)	75 (90.4)				
HBV-DNA (log ₁₀ IU/mL)	Median	0.70	1.15	.301			
	Range	0.70-4.03	0.70-5.34				
HBsAg (log ₁₀ IU/mL)	Median	3.45	3.92	.113			
	Range	-1.00-4.41	1.72-4.48				
Total anti-HBc (IU/mL)	Median	742.66	649.12	.001			
	Range	41.62-8790.81	14.60-20564.87				
HBcrAg (log ₁₀ U/mL)	Median	3.69	3.95	.001	2.366	1.456-3.844	.001
	Range	2.00-6.29	2.30-6.21				
HDV-RNA (log ₁₀ cp/mL)	Median	2.70	4.40	<.001			
	Range	2.70-5.46	2.70-6.82				
IgM anti-HDV (AU/mL)	Median	12.5	47	<.001			
	Range	10-100	10-200				
Total anti-HDV	≤1:100	6 (23.1)	3 (3.6)	.002	10.105	1.671-61.107	.012
	≤1:5000	15 (57.7)	43 (51.8)				
	≤1:50 000	5 (19.2)	37 (44.6)				
Total anti-HBc/ IgM anti-HDV	Median	19.44	9.43	.009			
	Range	2.31-699.88	0.10-997.87				

Correlation between HBV and HDV markers

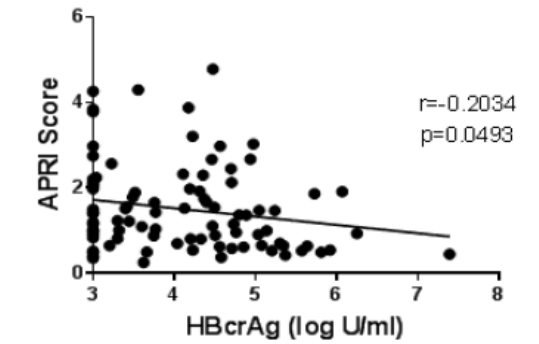
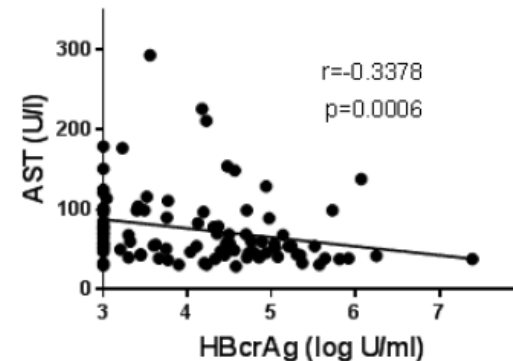
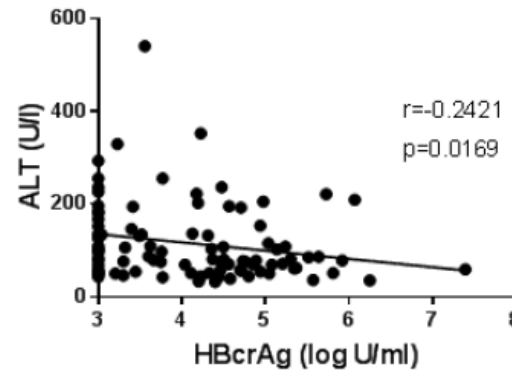
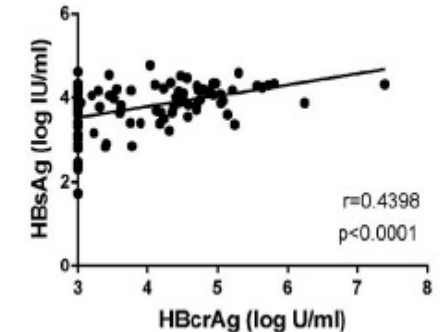
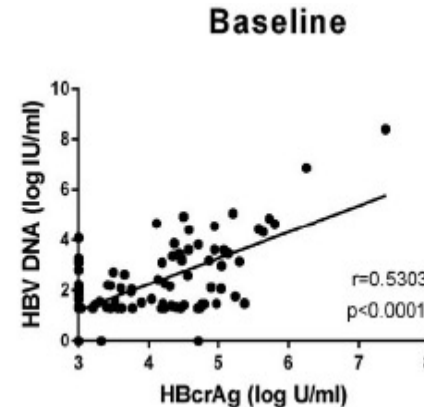
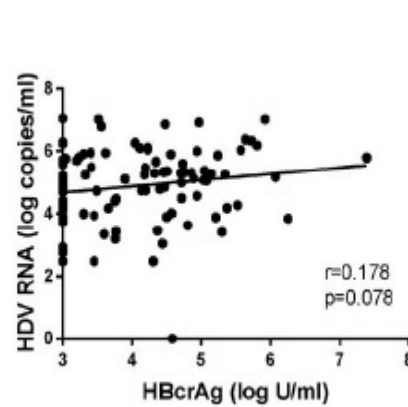
	HBsAg	Total anti-HBc	HBcrAg	HDV-RNA	IgM anti-HDV	Total anti-HDV
HBV-DNA (log ₁₀ IU/mL)						
ρ Spearman	0.185	0.269	0.324	0.276	0.000	-0.199
P	.067	.007	.001	.005	.998	.047
no of cases	99	100	100	100	100	100
HBsAg (log ₁₀ IU/mL)						
ρ Spearman	-0.227	0.395	0.404	0.059	0.037	
P	-	.018	<.001	<.001	.543	.706
no of cases	108	108	108	108	108	108
Total anti-HBc (IU/mL)						
ρ Spearman	-	-	0.078	-0.105	-0.033	-0.076
P	-	-	.420	.276	.735	.432
no of cases	-	-	109	109	109	109
HBcrAg (log ₁₀ U/mL)						
ρ Spearman	-	-	0.332	0.148	0.066	
P	-	-	<.001	.124	.495	
no of cases	-	-	109	109	109	
HDV-RNA (log ₁₀ cp/mL)						
ρ Spearman	-	-	-	0.416	0.094	
P	-	-	-	<.001	.329	
no of cases	-	-	-	109	109	
IgM anti-HDV (AU/mL)						
ρ Spearman	-	-	-	-	0.605	
P	-	-	-	-	<.001	
no of cases	-	-	-	-	109	

In 122 untreated CHD patients, HBcrAg levels positively correlate with HBsAg, HBV DNA and HDV RNA levels but did not independently predict disease activity (ALT) or severity (cirrhosis)

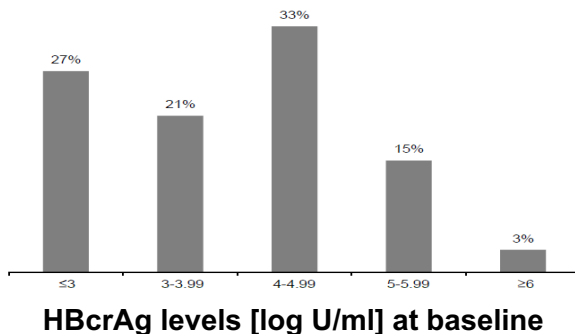
HBcrAg levels in untreated CHD patients – HIDIT-II subanalysis

Baseline features of 99 patients

Sex	
Male	66 (66.7%)
Female	35 (33.3%)
Age	
Median (IQR)	47 (42-60)
HDV RNA	
<300 copies/mL	5 (5.1%)
Median log ₁₀ copies/mL (IQR)	5.17 (4.27-5.76)
>10 ⁵ copies/mL	53 (53.5%)
HBV DNA	
Negative	8 (8.1%)
Median log ₁₀ IU/mL (IQR)	1.93 (1.3-3.22)
<100 IU/mL	38 (38.4%)
>2,000 IU/mL	20 (20.2%)
HBsAg	
Median log ₁₀ IU/mL (IQR)	3.92 (3.51-4.2)
<1,000 IU/mL	10 (10.1%)
HBeAg	
Positive	18 (18.2%)
Missing	10 (10.1%)
HBcrAg	
Median log U/mL (IQR)	4.11 (3-4.76)
≤3 log U/mL	27 (27.3%)
3-4.5 log U/mL	39 (39.4%)
>4.5 log U/mL	33 (33.3%)
ALT	
Median IU/L (IQR)	85 (58-149)
AST	
Median IU/L (IQR)	58 (44-99)



Distribution of patients for HBcrAg



In 99 untreated CHD patients, HBcrAg levels positively correlate with HBsAg and HBV DNA levels and negatively correlated with ALT/AST levels

HBcrAg and HBV RNA levels in untreated CHD

Serum pgHBV-RNA and HBcrAg levels in 240 untreated CHD patients: A multicenter cross-sectional study

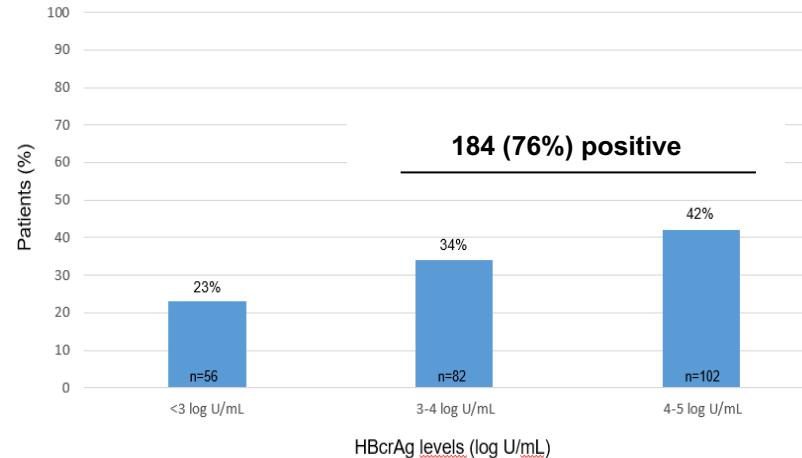


Baseline features of the patients

Age, years	46 (20-78)
Males	144 (62%)
European origin	170 (71%)
BMI, Kg/m ²	24 (17-44)
Cirrhosis	126 (53%)
CPT- A	101 (80%)
Esophageal varices ^o	46 (47%)
Active HCC	16 (7%) ^o
LSM, kPa [§]	10.4 (3.4-74.6) [§]
ALT, U/L	70 (15-889)
ALT>ULN	193 (80%)
AST, U/L	63 (17-380)
GGT, U/L	49 (8-491)
PLT, 10 ³ /mm ³	140 (29-369)
On NUC treatment	137 (57%)
HBsAg, Log IU/ml	3.8 (0.3-4.6)
HBeAg positive	45 (19%)
HBV DNA detectable	74 (31%)
HBV DNA log IU/ml*	1.8 (1.0-8.1)
HDV genotype 1 [@]	84 (95%) [@]
HDV RNA, Log IU/mL	4.9 (0.8-9.6)

(Milan, Lyon and Barcelona)

Distribution of patients according to HBcrAg levels (log IU/ml)



In 184 HBcrAg positive patients, median levels were high: 4.2 log IU/ml (range 3-8)

- **HBV RNA levels:** quantified by real-time PCR-based investigation assay (Roche Diagnostics, Pleasanton, Ca, USA, lower limit of quantification [LOQ] 10 cp/ml).
- **HBcrAg levels** quantified by LUMIPULSE® G HBcrAg assay (Fujirebio Europe, LOD 2 log₁₀ U/ml).

Variables associated with positive HBcrAg (76%)

Variables	Variables Category	Univariate Analysis		Multivariate Analysis	
		OR (95% CI)	p value	OR (95% CI)	p value
Age	Continuous	0.99 (0.97-1.02)	0.99	-	-
Male sex	Yes vs. No	1.28 (0.70-2.35)	0.42	-	-
European origin	Yes vs. No	1.34 (0.71-2.54)	0.37	-	-
Cirrhosis	Yes vs. No	0.86 (0.47-1.57)	0.62	-	-
LSM, kPa	Continuous	0.98 (0.96-1.01)	0.24	-	-
ALT, U/L	Continuous	1.00 (0.99-1.00)	0.54	-	-
GGT, U/L	Continuous	0.99 (0.99-1.00)	0.07	-	-
PLT, 10 ³ /mm ³	Continuous	1.00 (0.99-1.00)	0.92	-	-
NUC treatment	Yes vs. No	1.09 (0.60-2.00)	0.77	-	-
HBsAg, LogIU/mL	Continuous	3.07 (1.86-5.07)	<0.0001	2.80 (1.62-4.81)	0.0002
HBeAg positive	Yes vs. No	17.3 (2.32-128.56)	0.005	13.76 (1.79-105.41)	0.01
HBV DNA detectable	Yes vs. No	1.45 (0.74-2.86)	0.28	-	-
HDV RNA, LogIU/mL	Continuous	1.33 (1.10-1.61)	0.003	1.10 (0.89-1.38)	0.35

Serum pgHBV-RNA and HBcrAg levels in 240 untreated CHD patients

A multicenter cross-sectional study

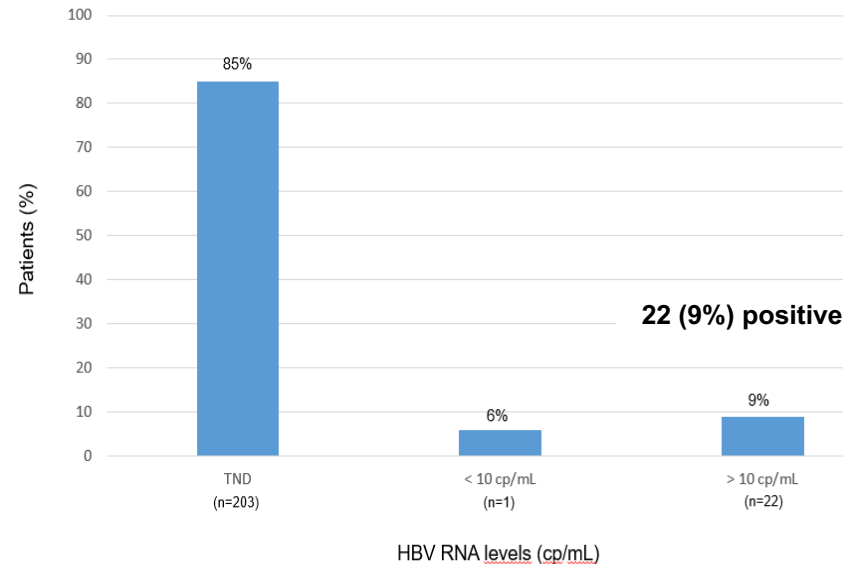


Baseline features of the patients

Age, years	46 (20-78)
Males	144 (62%)
European origin	170 (71%)
BMI, Kg/m ²	24 (17-44)
Cirrhosis	126 (53%)
CPT- A	101 (80%)
Esophageal varices ^o	46 (47%)
Active HCC	16 (7%) ^o
LSM, kPa [§]	10.4 (3.4-74.6) [§]
ALT, U/L	70 (15-889)
ALT>ULN	193 (80%)
AST, U/L	63 (17-380)
GGT, U/L	49 (8-491)
PLT, 10 ³ /mm ³	140 (29-369)
On NUC treatment	137 (57%)
HBsAg, Log IU/ml	3.8 (0.3-4.6)
HBeAg positive	45 (19%)
HBV DNA detectable	74 (31%)
HBV DNA log IU/ml*	1.8 (1.0-8.1)
HDV genotype 1 [@]	84 (95%) [@]
HDV RNA, Log IU/mL	4.9 (0.8-9.6)

Milan, Lyon and Barcelona

Distribution of patients according to HBV RNA levels (cp/ml)



In 22 HBV RNA positive patients, median levels were low: 40 cp/ml (range 13-82,000)

- **HBV RNA levels:** quantified by real-time PCR-based investigation assay (Roche Diagnostics, Pleasanton, Ca, USA, lower limit of quantification [LOQ] 10 cp/ml).
- **HBcrAg levels** quantified by LUMIPULSE® G HBcrAg assay (Fujirebio Europe, LOD 2 log₁₀ U/ml).

Variables associated with positive HBV RNA (9%, 22 pts)

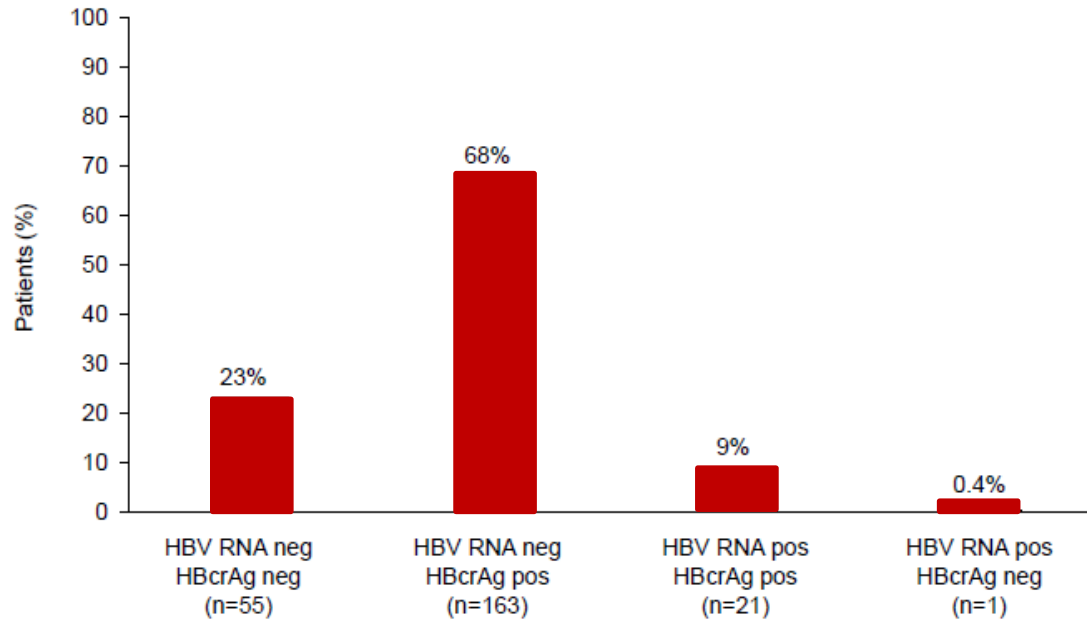
Variables	Variables Category	Univariate Analysis		Multivariate Analysis	
		OR (95% CI)	p value	OR (95% CI)	p value
Age	Continuous	0.94 (0.90-0.98)	0.001	0.94 (0.89-0.98)	0.01
Male sex	Yes vs. No	3.29 (1.07-10.03)	0.04	5.11 (1.36-19.16)	0.02
European origin	Yes vs. No	0.19 (0.08-0.50)	0.001	-	-
Cirrhosis	Yes vs. No	0.48 (0.20-1.20)	0.11	-	-
LSM, kPa	Continuous	1.01 (0.97-1.04)	0.68	-	-
ALT, U/L	Continuous	0.99 (0.98-1.00)	0.25	-	-
GGT, U/L	Continuous	1.00 (0.99-1.01)	0.26	-	-
PLT, 10 ³ /mm ³	Continuous	1.00 (0.99-1.01)	0.19	-	-
NUC treatment	Yes vs. No	0.39 (0.16-0.97)	0.04	-	-
HBsAg, LogIU/mL	Continuous	1.71 (0.69-4.22)	0.24	-	-
HBeAg positive	Yes vs. No	10.56 (4.09-27.25)	<0.001	12.99 (4.24-39.82)	<0.0001
HBV DNA detectable	Yes vs. No	7.36 (2.75-19.70)	<0.001	4.93 (1.57-15.48)	<0.01
HDV RNA, LogIU/mL	Continuous	1.54 (1.19-2.01)	0.001	-	-

Serum pgHBV-RNA and HBcrAg levels in 240 untreated CHD patients

A multicenter cross-sectional study



Distribution of patients according to HBV RNA and HBcrAg levels



In CHD untreated patients, HBV RNA and HBcrAg show a divergent pattern: while HBV RNA was undetectable in most patients, most of them had quantifiable HBcrAg but negative HBeAg

Variables associated with different HBV RNA/HBcrAg patterns

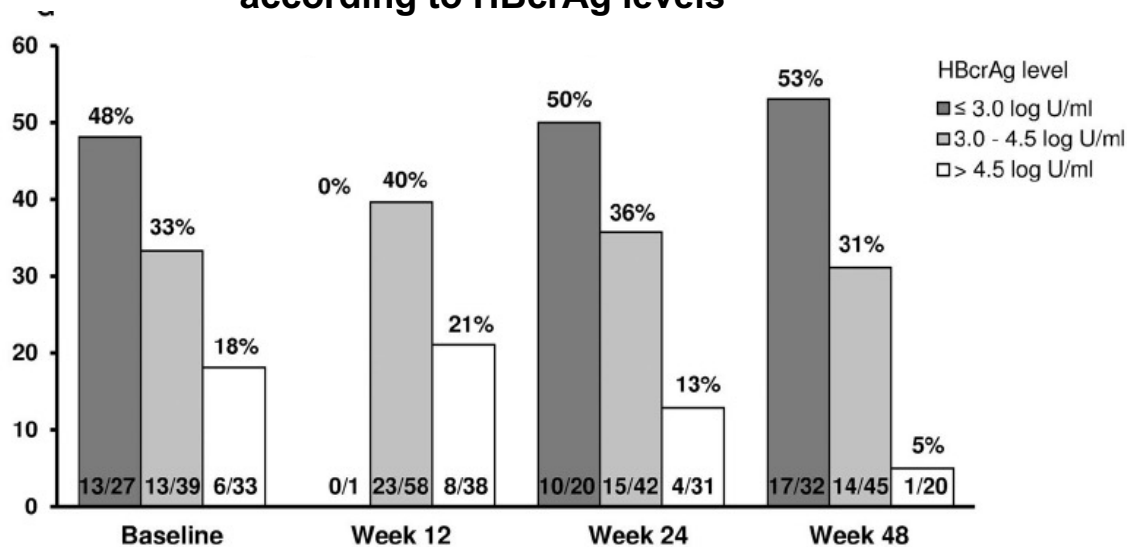
Variables	HBV RNA neg HBcrAg neg (n=55)	HBV RNA neg HBcrAg pos (n=163)	HBV RNA pos HBcrAg pos (n=21)	p value
Age, years	48 (23-64)	47 (20-78)	36 (20-56)	0.005
Males	30 (55%)	96 (59%)	17 (81%)	0.10
European origin	36 (66%)	126 (77%)	7 (33%)	0.0001
BMI, Kg/m ²	25 (19-37)	24 (17-44)	25 (18-31)	0.12
Cirrhosis	30 (55%)	88 (54%)	7 (33%)	0.19
Active HCC	8 (15%)	7 (4%)	1 (5%)	0.08
LSM, kPa [§]	8.4 (4.1-66.0)	10.9 (3.4-57.4)	8.5 (5.0-35.0)	0.39
AST, IU/L	64 (23-380)	64 (17-374)	53 (32-186)	0.36
ALT, U/L	51 (17-743)	78 (15-889)	62 (26-171)	0.10
ALT>ULN	37 (67%)	135 (83%)	19 (91%)	0.02
GGT, IU/L	57 (13-491)	49 (8-362)	42 (16-469)	0.70
PLT, 10 ³ x mm ³	131 (41-369)	145 (29-316)	140 (84-307)	0.36
On NUC therapy	30 (55%)	99 (61%)	7 (33%)	0.05
HBsAg, Log IU/mL	3.4 (0.3-4.4)	3.8 (2.0-4.6)	3.9 (2.8-4.3)	0.001
HBeAg positive	0	16 (10%)	11 (52%)	<0.0001
HBV DNA detectable	13 (24%)	45 (28%)	15 (71%)	0.0001
HDV genotype 1 [@]	20 (100%)	55 (97%)	9 (82%)	0.17
HDV RNA, Log IU/mL	3.9 (1.1-8.2)	4.9 (0.8-9.0)	6.4 (1.0-9.6)	<0.001

PegIFN-treated CHD patients

HBcrAg Levels Are Associated With Virological Response to Treatment With IFN in CHD patients (HIDIT-II)

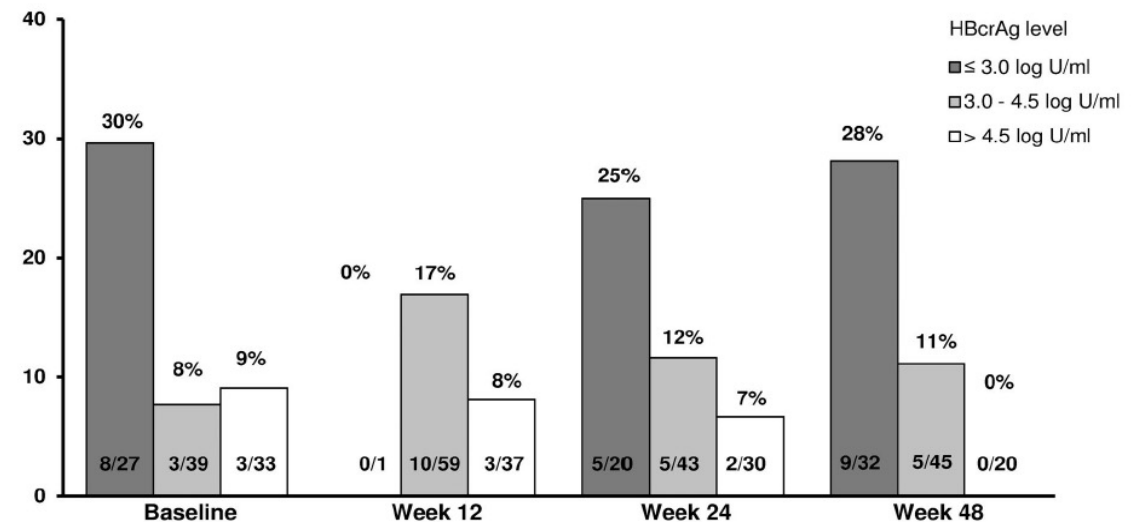
Overall, 99 CHD patients included: 48 treated with pegIFN+TDF and 48 treated with pegIFN monotherapy for 96 weeks; 24 weeks post Tx fup

Proportion of HDV RNA responders* according to HBcrAg levels



*Undetectable HDV RNA at FU24 (n=32)

Proportion of HBsAg responders* according to HBcrAg levels

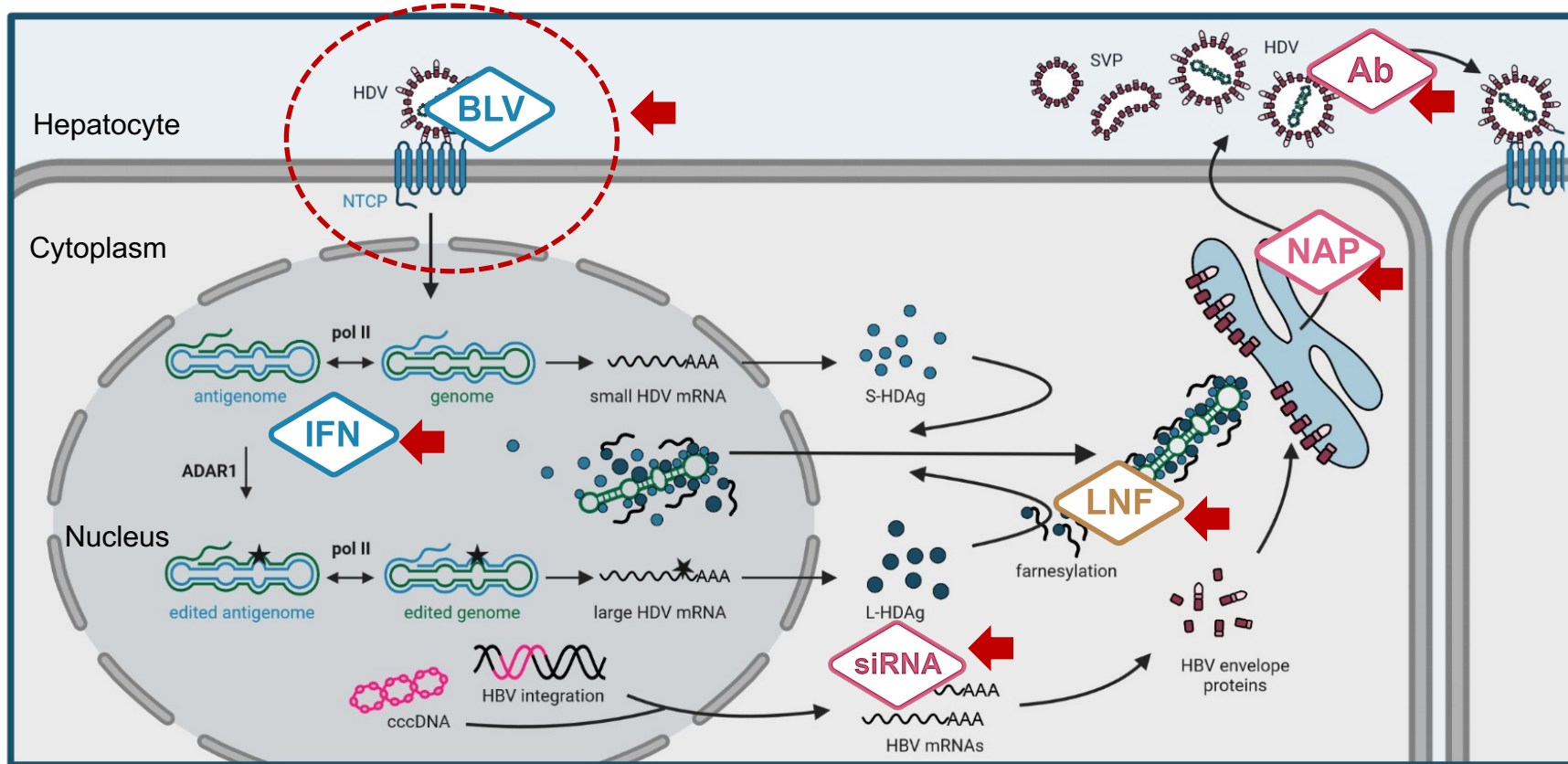


*HBsAg response=HBsAg <100 IU/mL at FU24 (n=14)

HBcrAg could be a promising baseline and on-treatment marker to predict pegIFN response in CHD patients. It could be a promising marker to determine treatment futility

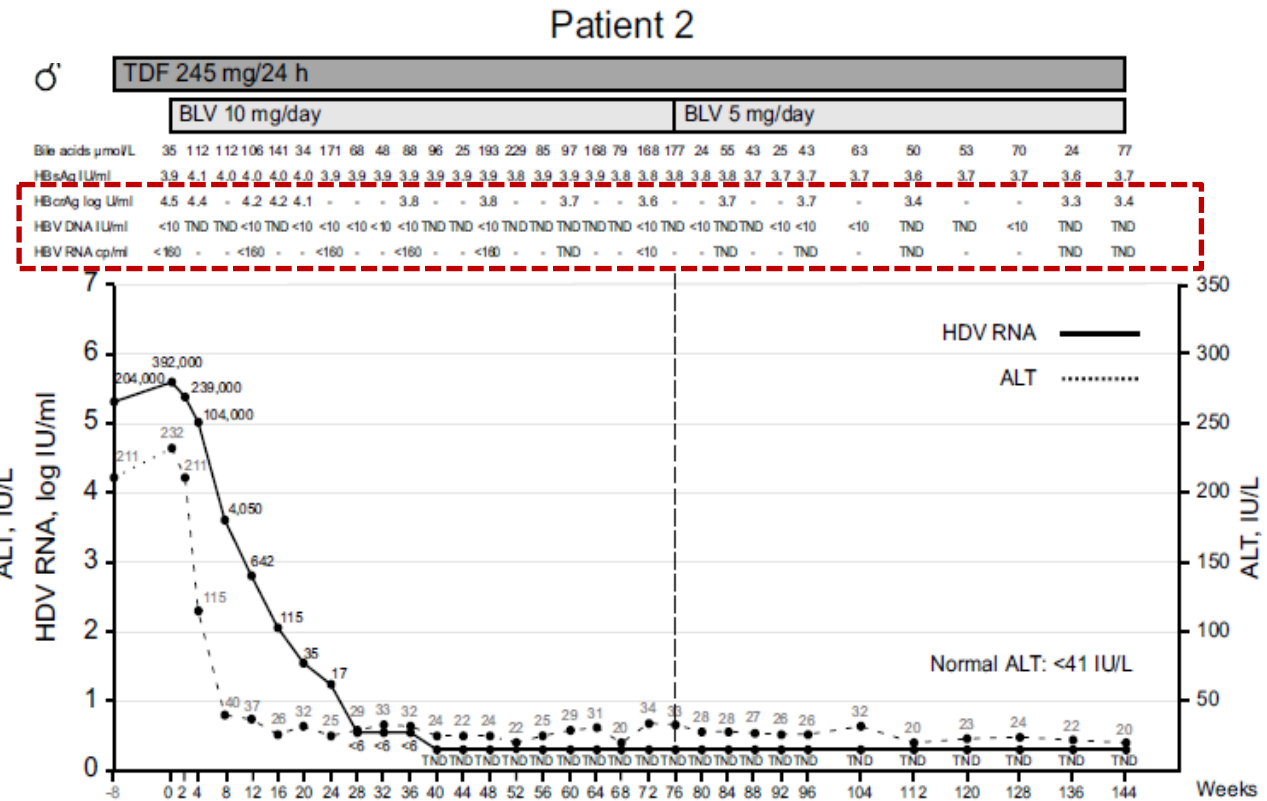
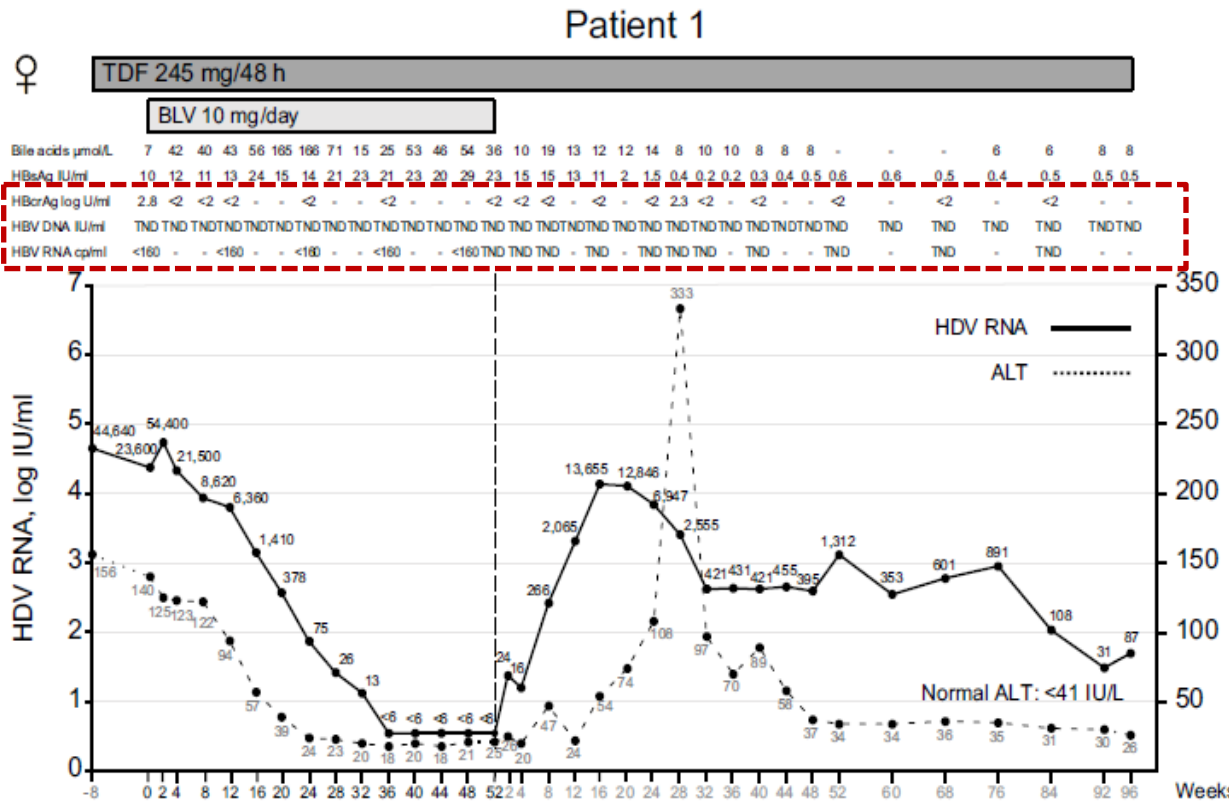
BLV-treated CHD patients

Therapeutic targets for HDV infection



NUC therapy for HBV does not directly interfere with HDV replication

Serum HBcrAg and HBV RNA levels in CHD patients treated with BLV monotherapy for up to 3 years



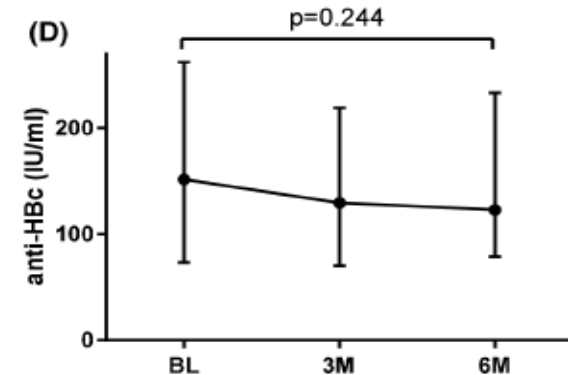
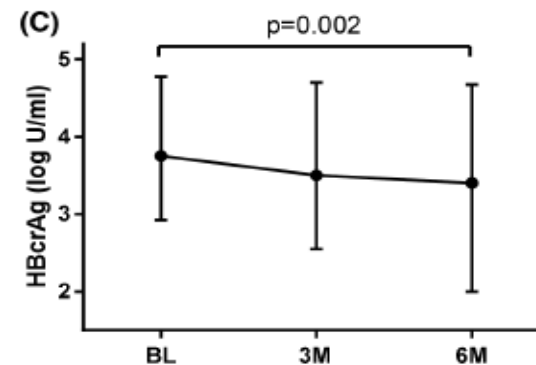
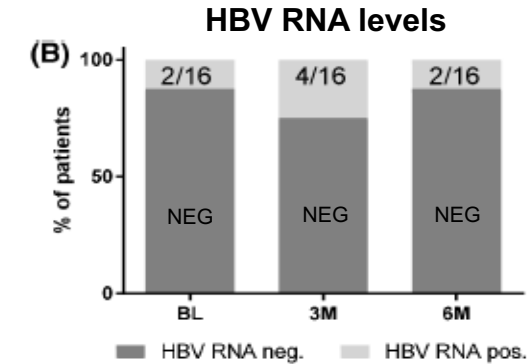
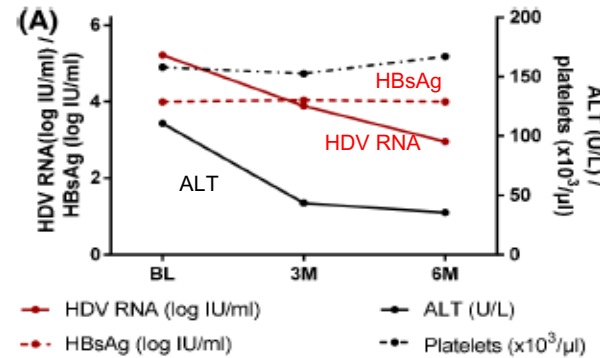
- HBV RNA levels were quantified by an inhouse real-time PCR technique (Leipzig, LOD 160 cp/ml) in the first year, and by a real-time PCR-based investigation assay (Roche Diagnostics, Pleasanton, Ca, USA, lower limit of quantification [LOQ] 10 cp/ml) in the following 2 years.
- HBcrAg levels were measured using LUMIPULSE® G HBcrAg assay (Fujirebio Europe, LOD 2 log₁₀ U/ml).

HBcrAg and HBV RNA levels during BLV treatment of CHD patients

A single center study from Germany

Study outline

- Retrospective single center study (Germany)
- 16 patients CHD treated with BLV 2 mg/day
- Duration of therapy: 6 months
- 15/16 patients on NUC
- HBV RNA by Robogene 2.0 (LLOG 82 IU/ml)
- HBV RNA by Roche Cobas 6800 (LLQ 10 cp/ml, HBcrAg by Lumupulse Fujirebio
- At baseline, 10 patients (63%) showed an HBcrAg level >3 log IU/mL, with median levels of HBcrAg were 3.75 log U/mL (IQR 2.93–4.78 log U/mL).
- At baseline, HBV RNA was detectable in only two (12%) patients .



After 6 months of BLV treatment, levels of HBcrAg showed a significant decline, while HBV RNA and anti-HBc levels did not change. Reduction of HBV cccDNA transcriptional activity and immunological effects of antiviral treatment might explain these changes.

BLV monotherapy for 48 weeks in compensated cirrhotics with CSPH - Time course of virological variables



Variables	Baseline n = 18	Week 8 n = 18	Week 16 n = 18	Week 24 n = 18	Week 32 n = 18	Week 40 n = 18	Week 48 n = 18	p value
HDV RNA, Log IU/ml	4.9 (3.3-6.6)	3.5 (1.2-5.9)	2.7 (0.9-5.9)	2.3 (0.7-5.8)	2.0 (0.7-5.8)	1.8 (0.3-6.0)	2.2 (0.3-6.0)	<0.001
HDV RNA decline, Log IU/ml	-	1.4 (0.4-3.1)	2.2 (0.4-3.6)	2.7 (0.6-3.9)	2.8 (0.4-3.9)	3.1 (0.3-4.6)	3.1 (0.2-4.3)	<0.001
HDV RNA decline ≥2 Log IU/ml	-	2 (11%)	7 (39%)	15 (83%)	15 (83%)	14 (78%)	14 (78%)	<0.001
HDV RNA decline <1 Log/ml	-	2 (11%)	2 (11%)	2 (11%)	2 (11%)	2 (11%)	2 (11%)	0.97
HDV RNA <1,000 IU/ml	0	8 (44%)	10 (56%)	13 (72%)	14 (78%)	14 (78%)	14 (78%)	<0.001
HDV RNA <100 IU/ml	0	2 (11%)	7 (39%)	9 (50%)	10 (56%)	10 (56%)	7 (39%)	<0.001
HDV RNA <6 IU/ml	0	0	0	2 (11%)	5 (23%)	6 (33%)	5 (23%)	0.003
Virologic response[°]	-	2 (11%)	7 (39%)	15 (83%)	15 (83%)	14 (78%)	14 (78%)	<0.001
HBsAg, Log IU/ml	3.7 (2.5-4.3)	3.8 (2.6-4.3)	3.8 (2.6-4.3)	3.8 (2.5-4.3)	3.7 (2.5-4.2)	3.7 (2.5-4.3)	3.7 (2.4-4.2)	0.31
HBV DNA detectable**	4 (28%)	0	0	0	2 (11%)	2 (11%)	1 (5%)	0.08
HBV RNA detectable***	1 (6%)	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.
HBcrAg, Log U/ml	3.8 (3.0-5.0)	3.7 (3.0-5.1)	3.8 (3.0-5.0)	3.7 (3.0-5.0)	3.7 (3.0-4.9)	3.7 (3.0-4.9)	3.7 (3.0-4.9)	0.03
HBcrAg >3 log U/ml	17 (94%)	16 (89%)	16 (89%)	16 (89%)	16 (89%)	16 (89%)	16 (89%)	0.99

Values are expressed as n (%) or median (range). Bold enhances the concept that virologic response represents the primary study endpoint.

Categorical variables were compared using the χ^2 or the Fisher's exact tests (level of significance $p < 0.05$); repeated analysis of variance was used to compare continuous variables assessed at different timepoints (level of significance $p < 0.05$). Bonferroni correction was applied in order to counteract the multiple testing problem.

BLV, bulevirtide; HBcrAg, hepatitis B core-related antigen.

[°]Virological response: HDV RNA undetectable or ≥ 2 log IU/ml decline vs. baseline.

**HBV DNA >10 IU/ml.

***HBV RNA >10 cp/ml. (quantified by a real-time PCR-based investigation assay, Roche Diagnostics, Pleasanton, Ca, USA, LLOQ 10 cp/ml).

**At baseline, 94% of the patients had positive HBcrAg (>3 logs) and 99% had negative HBV RNA (<10 cp/ml)
During BLV monotherapy, this pattern did not change**

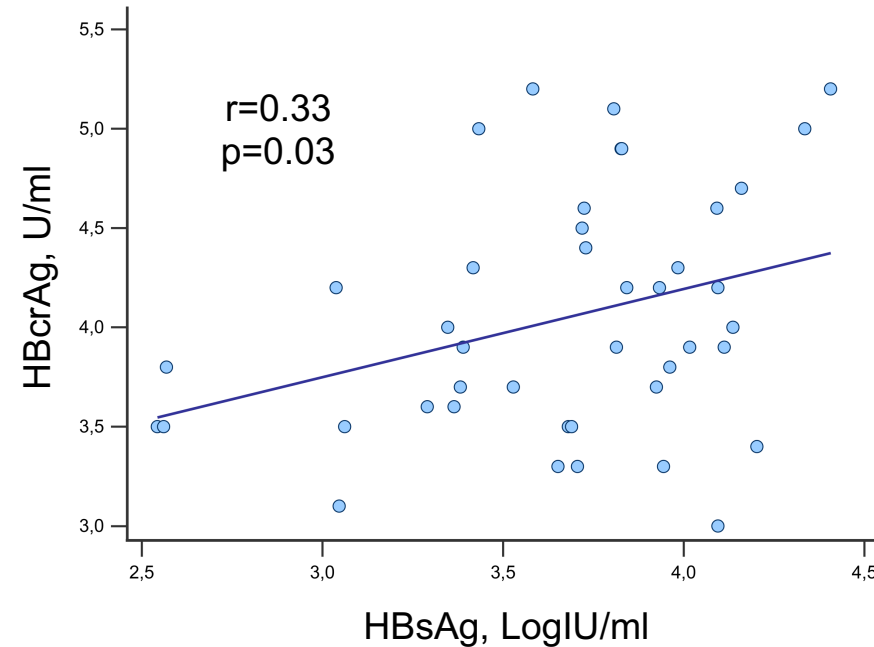
Kinetics of Hepatitis B Core related Antigen in Patients with Compensated HDV Cirrhosis Treated with Bulevirtide Monotherapy



Single-Center, longitudinal, real-life study

49 patients with HDV-related cirrhosis and CSPH treated with BLV 2 mg monotherapy up to 72 weeks

Variables	Overall (n=49)
Age, years	52 (29-77)
Males	29 (59%)
Caucasians	45 (92%)
HDV genotype 1	48 (99%)
CPT score A	49 (100%)
Esophageal varices	28 (57%)
Spleen diameter, cm	15 (9-25)
LSM, kPa	17.3 (6.4-68.1)
AST, U/l	89 (33-738)
ALT, U/l	97 (30-1,074)
Bilirubin, mg/dl	1.0 (0.4-4.4)
Albumin, mg/dL	3.9 (2.9-4.6)
qHBsAg, LogIU/ml	3.7 (0.8-4.4)
HDV RNA, LogIU/ml	5.2 (2.4-6.9)
HBcrAg, U/ml	4.1 (3.0-5.2)
HBcrAg detectable	42 (86%)



Variables	Baseline	Week 24	Week 48	Week 72	p value
HBcrAg detectable	86%	81%	88%	71%	0.21
HBcrAg, U/ml	4.1 (3.0-5.2)	3.9 (3.1-5.4)	3.9 (3.1-4.9)	3.9 (3.1-4.7)	0.03
HBsAg, LogIU/ml	3.7 (0.8-4.4)	3.8 (0.4-4.4)	3.7 (2.5-4.3)	3.6 (2.5-4.3)	0.77

HBV RNAs and HBcrAg in HDV - Summary

- Overall, limited data on new HBV markers (HBcrAg and HBV RNA) in CHD patients
 - Most untreated CHD patients are HBcrAg positive but HBV RNA negative. This is a unique and very specific pattern for HDV (vs HBV). The underlying molecular mechanisms are not fully clarified.
 - In pegIFN-treated pts, high HBcrAg levels at baseline/on-therapy may serve as a futility rule. No data on HBV RNA
 - In BLV-treated patients, HBcrAg levels decline slowly overtime (relevant ?). Few HBV RNA data (but 90% patients are already negative at baseline)
 - These new HBV biomarkers may play a role in the diagnosis, prognosis and monitoring of CHD patients, but new studies are needed
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Thank You for Your Attention!



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