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Editorial: similar risk of hepatocellular carcinoma in chronic hepatitis B patients treated with tenofovir or entecavir-new clues from Europe. Authors' reply.

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3 **Editorial: similar risk of hepatocellular carcinoma in chronic hepatitis B patients treated**
4 **with Tenofovir or Entecavir - new clues from Europe. Authors' reply**
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11 In their Editorial Lampertico and Papatheodoridis wisely conclude that the controversy of
12 whether Tenofovir reduces the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma to a greater extent than
13 does Entecavir treatment continues, leaving open the possibility that Tenofovir should be
14 the preferred agent in a subset of patients (1). From our data, we cannot exclude such a
15 proposition. However, in our comprehensive investigation, an analysis of the effect in
16 numerous subgroups (including in cirrhotic, non-cirrhotic, experienced or naïve patients,
17 compensated cirrhotics or cirrhotics with prior complications including HCC or non-
18 carcinoma complications) did not show evidence of any significant difference between these
19 antiviral therapies. (2). We believe that the recently published systematic review and meta-
20 analysis, including 119,053 patients, adds credible supplementary confirmation of the
21 absence of any major clinically significant difference between these two antiviral drugs: the
22 8 studies matched by propensity score report a 5-year cumulative incidence of
23 hepatocellular carcinoma of 3.44% for Entecavir and 3.39% for Tenofovir. In their analysis
24 the authors suggest that “treatment should be guided by patient tolerability and
25 affordability rather than whether one drug is more effective than the other” and we
26 completely agree with this conclusion.
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26 The author' declarations of personal and financial interests are unchanged from those in the
27 original article (2).
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