

RESEARCH NOTE

PRESENCE OF HEPATITIS B VIRUS IN PARAFFIN-EMBEDDED LIVER TISSUES OF PATIENTS WITH HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA

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Abstract. There are limited virological data regarding hepatitis B virus in liver tissues of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) patients. The study examined correlation between virological data and HCC status in 76 HCC patients classified into HBV infection status, genotype, mutation, and HBV DNA and covalently closed circular DNA (cccDNA) copies/cell. Genotype C was the most prevalent (70%); deletion of *preS1* was present in 43% and novel C1673G/A and C1773T/A in 62% of region 3 mutations of HBV samples sequenced. Stage of liver cell differentiation stage, serological status of HCC patients and HBV genotype were strongly associated with *preS* deletion (p -value <0.001). Functional nature of these findings awaits further investigation.

Keywords: hepatitis B virus, hepatocellular carcinoma, liver cell differentiation stage, liver tissue, mutation

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