**Supplementary Material**

Supplementary Table S1. Primers used in the amplification of pre-C/C gene in hepatitis B virus.

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| Primer name | Nucleotide sequence |
| C1 forward | 5′-GACAAGCCTGTAGCCCATGT-3, |
| C1 reverse | 5′-TTGATGGCAGAGAGGAGGTT-3′ |
| C2 forward | 5′-ACCTATGACCACACAACCATCCTG-3′ |
| C2 reverse | 5′-CCACATCATAACCTCCTCTCCTA-3′ |
| C3 forward | 5′-GATTCCCACACTCAGTTCTGCTTC-3′ |
| C3 reverse | 5′-GCACCACTCACAGTGTTTTCGGAC-3′ |
| C4 forward | 5′-CTGGCAGACATGGGGATAGTG TG-3′ |
| C4 reverse | 5′-CTGATGGTGGTGTGGCTTGTGCT-3′ |