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The Journal of Clinical Investigation. Volume 93, No. 1, January 1994.

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Since publication of the above referenced manuscript, it has come to the authors' attention that the PCO (sense) primer described in Table II lies upstream of the start site of the viral pregenomic RNA. Accordingly, this primer cannot amplify reversed transcribed viral RNA as illustrated in Fig. 7. The signal illustrated in that figure must have been generated, therefore, by a hemi-nested PCR reaction involving the COR, PCN, and NCO primers shown in Table II.

The authors have recently confirmed the presence of HBV RNA sequences in the PBMC of case 4, as shown in Fig. 7, using PCN (sense)-COR (antisense) primers for initial amplification followed by 1898 (sense)-NCO (antisense) nested amplification. The coordinates and sequence of all primers are shown in Table II except 1898 sense, which represents position 1898–1917 in HBV and contains the sequence 5′-CATGGACATCGACCCTTATA-3′.

PBMC from case 2 are not available for retesting; however, the authors have reproduced these results in PBMC RNA derived from two patients with chronic HBV infection using the same series of primers, as well as with primers covering the envelope and X regions of the viral genome.

The authors regret any confusion that this error may have caused, and are pleased to report that the results and conclusions of the paper remain unchanged despite this mistake.