Supplementary figures

Figure S1. Kinetics of STAT1 and STAT2 proteins phosphorilation by immunoblotting. Although Huh7 and HepG2 cells have been described to harbour a defective IFN response to influenza A, VSV or Sendai viruses infection (Keskinen et al, 1999), the components of the IFN class I signaling pathway are conserved, even though relatively high concentrations of exogenous IFNα are required to activate the IFN-stimulated genes (ISGs) (Melen et al, 2000). STAT1 (*left panel*) and STAT2 (*right panel*) are rapidly phosphorylated in HepG2 cells transfected with linear wt HBV (genotype A) genomes and exposed to IFNα (1000 U/ml). Tubulin levels detected by immunoblotting were used to normalize equal loadings from lysate samples.

Figure S2. Selected ISGs expression profiles in untreated and IFNα-treated HepG2 cells exposed to IFNα (1000 U/ml). Custom real-time PCR liquid arrays (TLDAs - Applied Biosystems) were loaded with 200ng of cDNA obtained from total RNAs extracted from HepG2 cells treated with 1000 IU/ml for24 hours. Results are expressed as fold induction over the basal level of expression in untreated cells (mean + SD) from 3 independent experiments.

Supplementary References

1. Keskinen P, Nyqvist M, Sareneva T, Pirhonen J, Melén K, Julkunen I. (1999). Impaired antiviral response in human hepatoma cells. Virology 263: 364-75.
2. Melén K, Keskinen P, Lehtonen A, Julkunen I. (2000). Interferon-induced gene expression and signaling in human hepatoma cell lines. J Hepatol. 33: 764-72.

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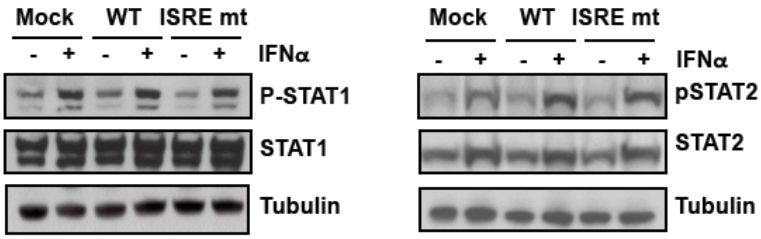

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