

**Table S1. Primers and PCR conditions used for amplification and direct sequencing of the HBV polymerase region.**

First-round PCR

PCR condition: initial denaturation at 94°C 4 min, followed by 34 cycles of amplification consisting of denaturation at 94°C 40 sec, annealing at 55°C 30 sec, and extension at 72°C 1.5 min, then a final extension at 72°C 10 min

NP1 pair (full-length PCR)

P1 (Forward, nt1824-1843) 5'-TTCACCTCTGCCTAATCATC-3'

P2 (Reverse, nt1803-1784) 5'-AACAGACCAATTTATGCCTA-3'

NP2 pair

P1 (Forward, nt1824-1843) 5'-TTCACCTCTGCCTAATCATC-3'

P4 (Reverse, nt734-715) 5'-CTGAAAGCCAAACAGTGGGG-3'

NP3 pair

P2 (Reverse, nt1803-1784) 5'-AACAGACCAATTTATGCCTA-3'

P3 (Forward, nt3193-3213) 5'-CATCCTCAGGCCATGCAGTGG-3'

Second-round PCR

PCR condition: initial denaturation at 96°C 3 min, followed by 10 cycles of amplification at 94°C 1 min, 60°C 30 sec, and 72°C 1.5 min, then 40 cycles of amplification at 94°C 1 min, 56°C 30 sec, and 72°C 1.5 min, then a final extension at 72°C 10 min

NP4 pair

P5 (Forward, nt2300-2325) 5'-CCACCAAATGCCCCTATCTTATCAAC-3'

P6 (Reverse, nt479-462) 5'-GAGGACAAACGGGCAACA-3'

NP5 pair

P7 (Forward, nt353-373) 5'-CCAATTTGTCCTGGCTATCGC-3'

P8 (Reverse, nt1718-1694) 5'-ACAGTCTTTGAAGTAKGCCTCAAGG-3'

Sequencing reaction

P5 (Forward, nt2300-2325) 5'-CCACCAAATGCCCCTATCTTATCAAC-3'

S1 (Forward, nt2512-2531) 5'-TCTTTAATCCTGAATGGCAA-3'

S2 (Forward, nt2816-2835) 5'-GTCACCATATTCTTGGGAAC-3'

P3 (Forward, nt3193-3213) 5'-CATCCTCAGGCCATGCAGTGG-3'

P6 (Reverse, nt479-462) 5'-GAGGACAAACGGGCAACA-3'

P7 (Forward, nt353-373) 5'-CCAATTTGTCCTGGCTATCGC-3'

S3 (Forward, nt752-771) 5'-TATTGGGGGCAAGTCTGTA-3'

S4 (Forward, nt1142-1159) 5'-TTTACCCCGTTGCYCGGC-3'

P8 (Reverse, nt1718-1694) 5'-ACAGTCTTTGAAGTAKGCCTCAAGG-3'

HBV, hepatitis B virus; PCR, polymerase chain reaction.