



# 6 Facts of Viral Hepatitis Diagnosis!

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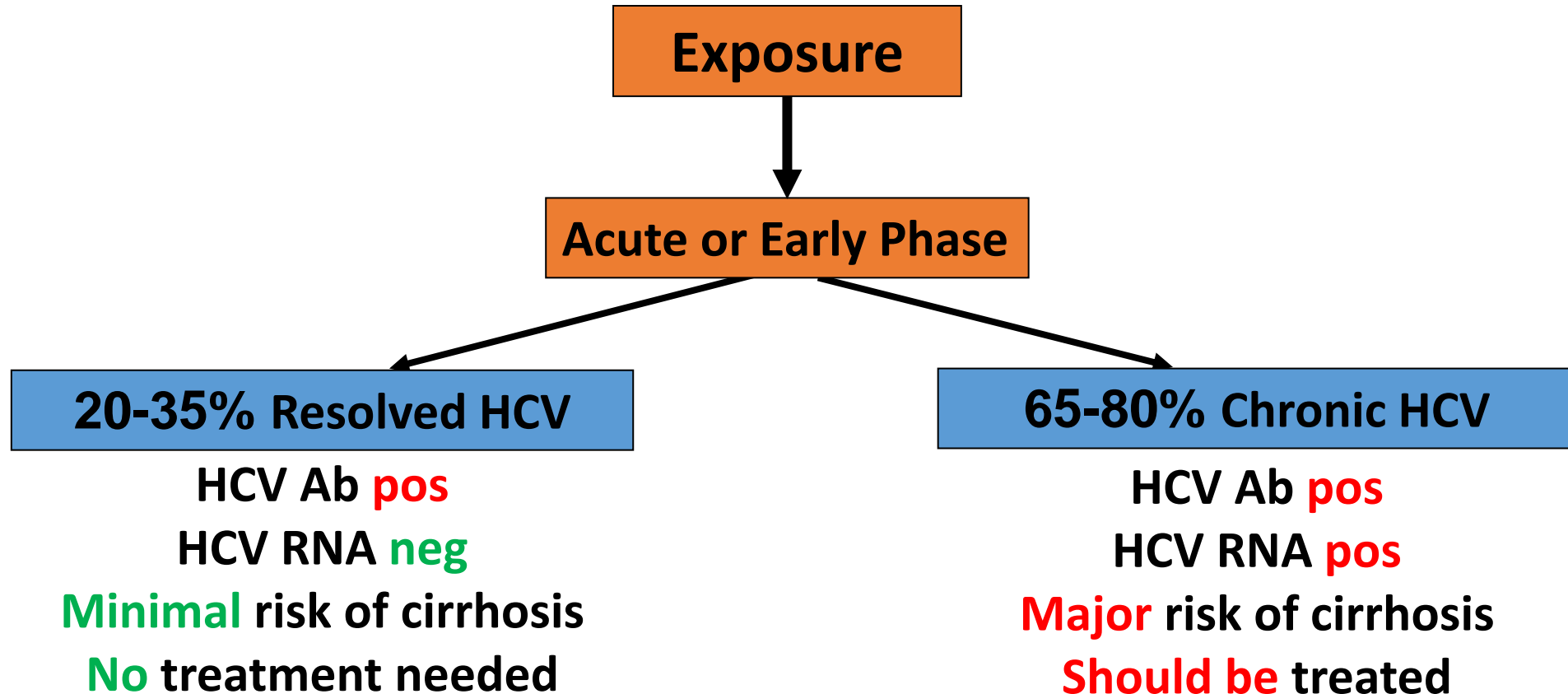
Iran Hepatitis Network

**1. Does Positive HCV Ab mean  
current HCV infection?**

**Yes**

**No**

# Natural History of Hepatitis C



**1. P**

## **Take home message 1**

**an**

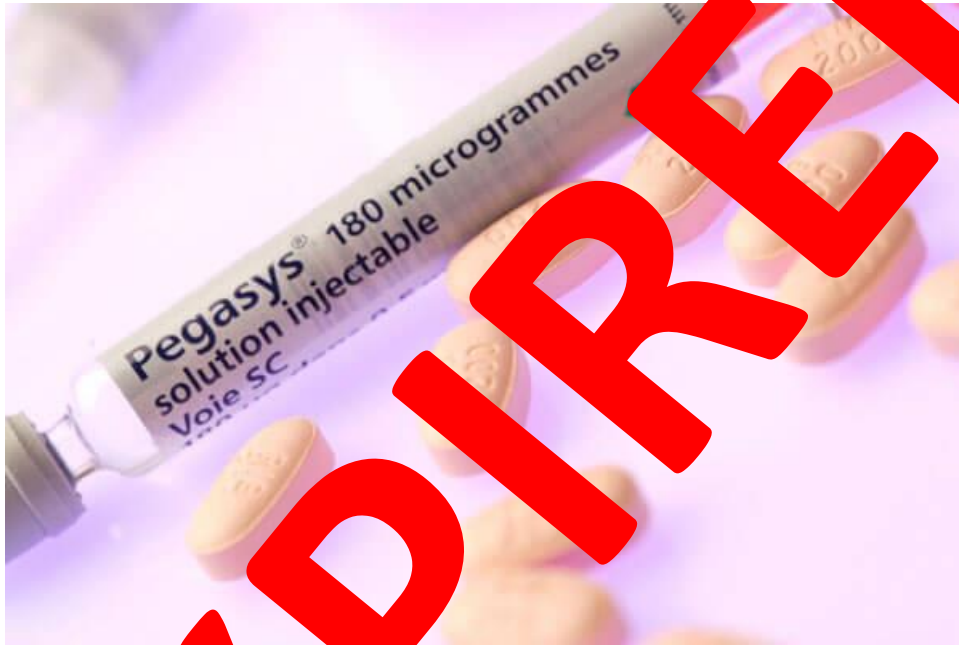
For confirmation of  
current HCV infection HCV  
viremia (RNA) should be  
evaluated by RT-PCR

## **2. HCV quantitative or HCV qualitative?**

**Quanti**

**Quali**

## HCV Viral load in era of **IFN-based** Regimens



An important virologic  
marker for shortening,  
elongation and termination  
of treatment

## HCV Viral load in era of **DAA-based** Regimens



Has no role in clinical  
decision making

# HCV RNA Assessment

- HCV RNA detection (qualitative) should be tested **before initiation** of treatment and **12 or 24 weeks after treatment** completion. SVR12 and SVR24 are **99%** concordance.
- HCV RNA detection should be made by a reliable **sensitive assay**.

## Take home message 2

Detection of HCV RNA using a simple and sensitive qualitative method is sufficient for management of Hep C.



### **3. HCV genotyping; yes or no?**

**Yes**

**No**

# HCV Genotyping

- Strains of HCV are classified into **seven genotypes (1–7)** and a large number of subtypes.
- HCV genotype was a strong clinical decision making parameter used for determination of **treatment regimen** (duration and treatment combination) in the era of **IFN-based** and **DAA-based** therapies.
- With availability of **pan-genotypic regimens**, HCV genotyping is fading from clinical management of HCV infection.

## HCV genotyping in era of **IFN-based** Regimens



Used for determination of  
**treatment duration.**

## HCV genotyping in era of **DAA-based** Regimens



Used for determination of  
the **treatment combination**  
(the regimen  $\pm$  RBV) and  
**treatment duration.**

## **Take home message 3**

**3.1**

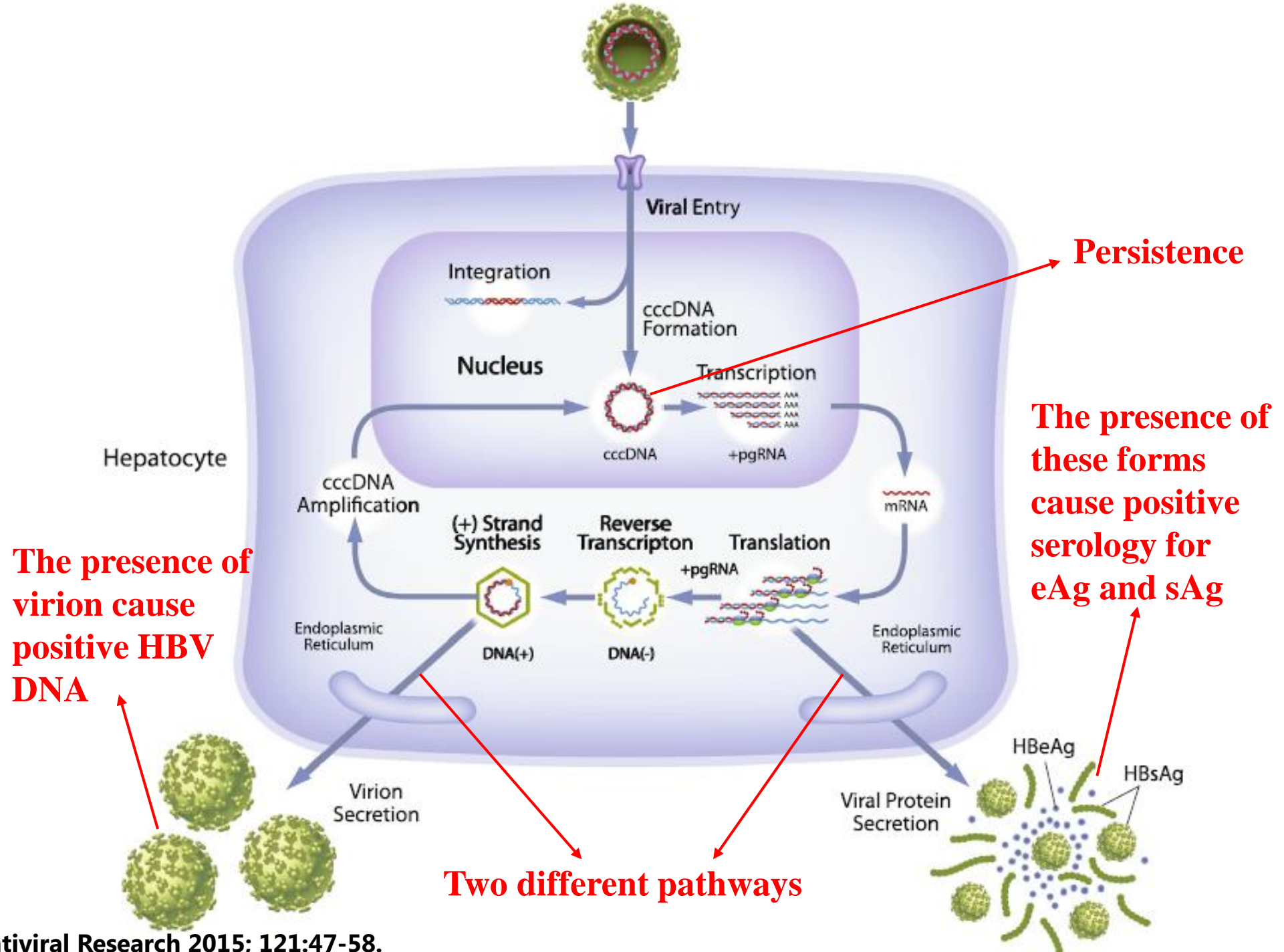
**o?**

Evaluation of HCV genotyping should be considered for management of Hep C in Iran until a pangentotypic regimen will be available.

**4. In naive HBsAg+ patients, can HBV DNA be undetectable?**

**Yes**

**No**



## Take home message 4

4.1

can

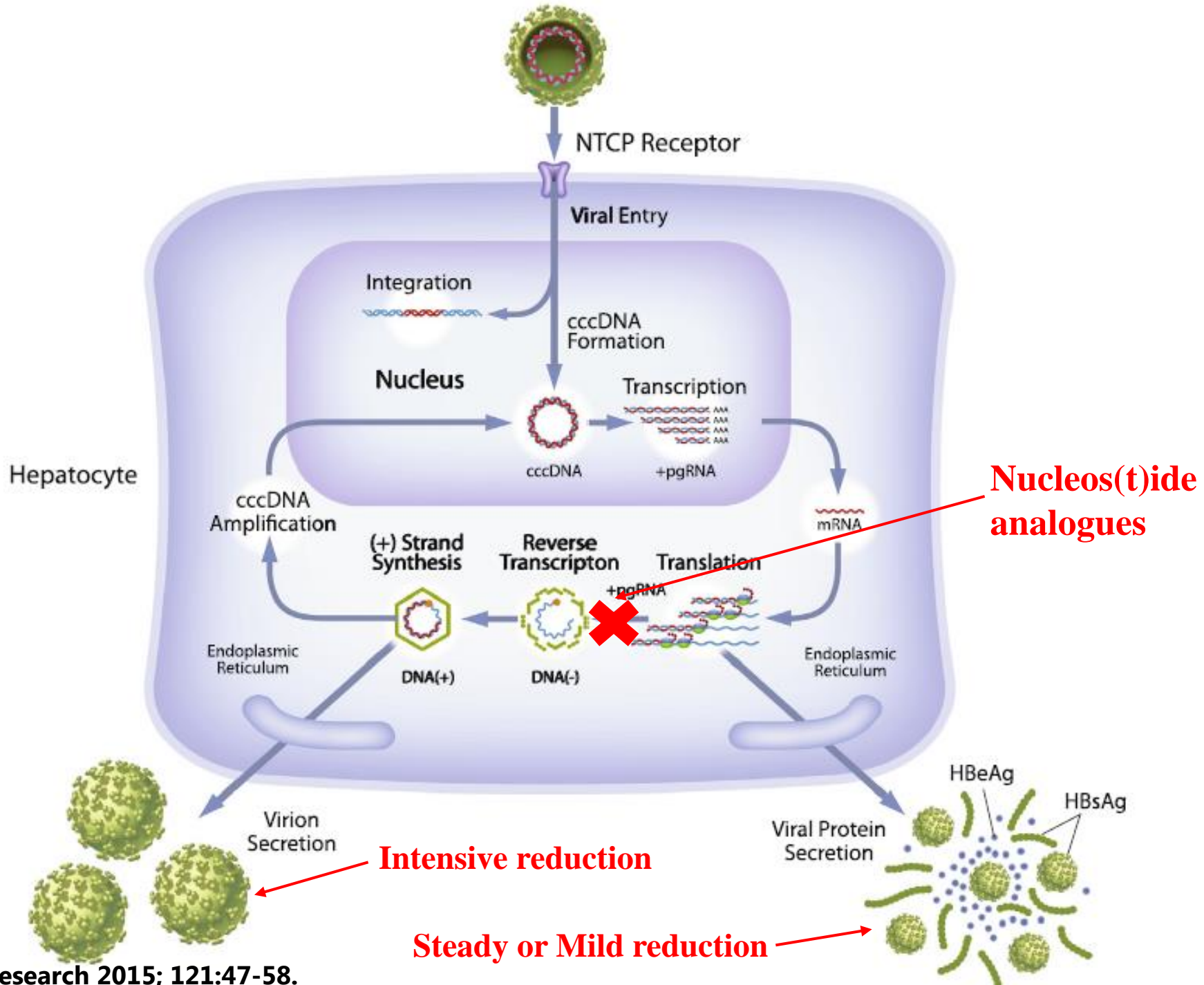
A number of HBsAg pos patients (specially those with HBeAg neg HBV inactive infection) can be HBV DNA neg using the routine HBV DNA methods (with around 10 IU/mL LOD)

**5. Is it alright to observe positive HBsAg for patients under treatment of NA with undetectable HBV DNA?**

**Yes**

**No**





**5. Is it**

## **Take home message 5**

**positive**

Most of the patients under long-term treatment of NA have undetectable HBV DNA while HBsAg is positive.

**Yes**

**NO**

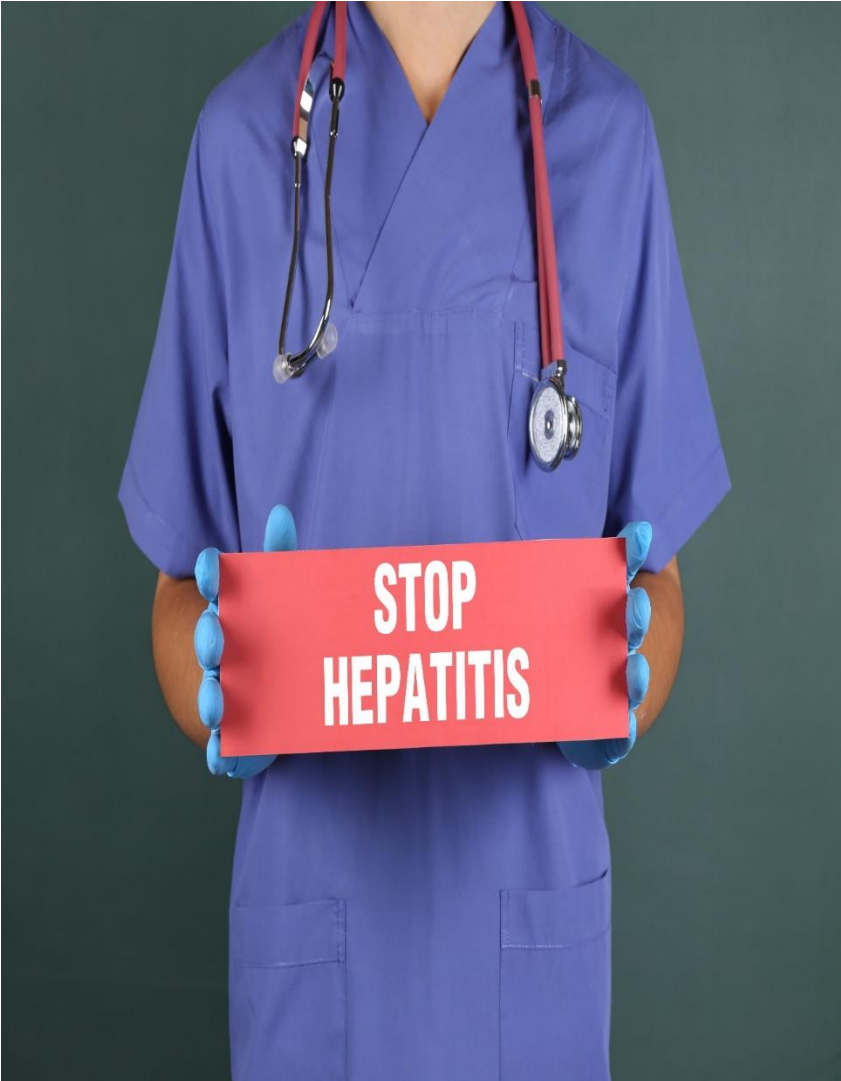
## **6. What is “Occult HBV infection?”**

# Occult HBV infection

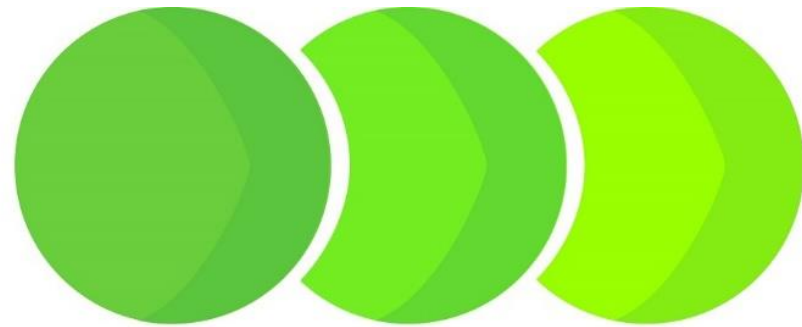
- Previously, defined as HBsAg neg while HBV DNA pos
- Currently, considered as a new phase of Hep B named “HBsAg-negative phase”.
- HBsAg-, HBcAb+/-, HBsAb+/-, HBV DNA+/-
- HBV DNA (cccDNA) can be detected frequently in the liver.

## **Take home message 6**

**“Occult HBV infection” added  
as a new phase of Hep B.**



Thank You  
Very Much



**NO**hep