**S1 Table.** Recruitment criteria for chronic hepatitis B (CHB) group and HBV patients who cleared their infection spontaneously (Clear) group.

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| CHB |
| 1. HBsAg and anti-HBc positive for at least 6 months; |
| 2. Anti-HCV and HCV RNA negative; |
| 3. Anti-HDV and/or HDVAg negative; |
| 4.ALT and/or AST levels greater than 2 times upper limits of normal range for testing hospital before or current; |
| Clears |
| 1. Anti-HBs and anti-HBc positive; |
| 2. HBV-DNA negative, HDVAg negative and/or anti-HDV negative; |
| 3. Anti HCV and HCV RNA negative; |
| 4. ALT <40 IU/L and AST <45 IU/L at enrollment; and |
| 5. Age ≥ 35. |