

Supplementary Material

Table S1. Cytokine Profiles Stratified by HBeAg Status

Variable	HBeAg positive (n = 50)	HBeAg negative (n = 40)	P-value
Age, years	36.5 ± 11.8	42.1 ± 13.2	0.06
ALT, IU/L	45.2 ± 22.5	30.5 ± 18.2	< 0.01
AST, IU/L	42.8 ± 20.1	32.1 ± 16.5	0.02
HBV DNA, log ₁₀ IU/mL	6.5 ± 1.8	2.8 ± 1.2	< 0.001
FibroScan, kPa	9.8 ± 5.2	7.5 ± 4.8	0.04
IL-6, pg/mL	325.4 ± 95.2	210.5 ± 80.1	< 0.001
IL-8, pg/mL	85.2 ± 30.1	55.4 ± 25.2	< 0.001
TNF- α , pg/mL	115.2 ± 40.5	85.4 ± 35.2	0.001
IFN- γ , pg/mL	105.5 ± 38.2	90.2 ± 32.1	0.08

Data presented as mean ± SD. ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; HBeAg, hepatitis B e-antigen; HBV, hepatitis B virus; IFN- γ , interferon-gamma; IL, interleukin; TNF- α , tumor necrosis factor-alpha.

Table S2. Correlation Matrix of Biomarkers with Fibrosis Severity

Variable	miR-122	IL-6	IL-8	TNF- α	TGF- β	FibroScan (kPa)
miR-122	1.00	-0.62**	-0.58**	-0.60**	-0.45**	-0.65**
IL-6	-0.62**	1.00	0.72**	0.75**	0.55**	0.72**
IL-8	-0.58**	0.72**	1.00	0.68**	0.50**	0.68**
TNF- α	-0.60**	0.75**	0.68**	1.00	0.60**	0.70**
TGF- β	-0.45**	0.55**	0.50**	0.60**	1.00	0.65**
FibroScan (kPa)	-0.65**	0.72**	0.68**	0.70**	0.65**	1.00
HBV DNA (log ₁₀ IU/mL)	-0.38*	0.48**	0.42**	0.45**	0.35*	0.40**

Spearman correlation coefficients. * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.001$.