Reviewer’s report

Title: Changes in Anti-Viral Effectiveness of Interferon After Dose Reduction in Chronic Hepatitis C Patients: a Case Control Study

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Reviewer: Prof Stefan Zeuzem

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept without revision

This paper investigates the changes in antiviral effectiveness of interferon after dose reduction. The authors investigated a small, somewhat heterogeneous cohort of patients with chronic hepatitis C who either received high dose induction therapy plus ribavirin or standard combination therapy. Not surprisingly, the data show that the second phase viral decline slope was impaired by the dose reduction. The data suggest that induction therapy should be continued at least until HCV RNA becomes undetectable.

The paper is well written, methods including mathematical modeling are appropriate, and the results are discussed adequately. The manuscript provides additional data for our understanding of interferon-based treatment in patients with chronic hepatitis C.

Competing interests:

None declared.