Author's response to reviews

Title: Autoantibodies to muscarinic acetylcholine receptors found in patients with primary biliary cirrhosis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Revision of Manuscript # 1063220324265943
Autoantibodies to muscarinic acetylcholine receptors found in patients with primary biliary cirrhosis

Dear Editor,

please find enclosed our revised manuscript “Autoantibodies to muscarinic acetylcholine receptors found in patients with primary biliary cirrhosis.”

We carefully followed the comments of the reviewers and highlighted the changes with blue type. Below please find our point-by-point response to the concerns.

We hope that our manuscript may now be acceptable for publication in the Journal BMC Gastroenterology.

Best regards

Dr. Christoph P. Berg
Point-by-point response

Reviewer 1:

1. The manuscript lack demographic (age, length of diagnosis etc), clinical, biochemical and serological association between those PBC seropositive to hmAchR M3 antibodies and those who are negative.

- We included into the sections Results and Discussion the differentiation between patients being seropositive to hmAchR M3 antibodies and those who are negative.

2. A more detailed discussion on the lack of clinical correlation between AMA (the major diagnostic marker) and PBC, as well as the need for new serological markers which may be of clinical importance is required (see recent manuscript A comprehensive evaluation of serum autoantibodies in primary biliary cirrhosis J Autoimmun. 2010 Feb;34(1):55-8.)

- We added a further point at the end of the discussion concerning the relevance of new antibodies and the need of new concepts for PBC.

Reviewer 2:

1. Autoantibodies to the hmAcr M3 have been reported in sera from patients with SjS. The authors reported presence of the autoantibodies also in sera from patients with PBC. In patients the antibody-positive patients with PBC, were serum anti-SS-A/SS-B autoantibodies examined? This issue is important.

- We discussed that point in the section Discussion.

2. In test, the last number of references is 45. However, the number of total references is 46. Authors are needed to edit the references.

- We checked for the citations, two new citations were inserted.