Author's response to reviews

Title: Severity of acute hepatitis and its outcome in patients with dengue fever in a tertiary care hospital Karachi, Pakistan (South Asia):

Authors:

- Om Parkash (om.parkash@aku.edu)
- Aysha Almas (aysha.almas@aku.edu)
- Syed Hasnain Alishah (hasnain.alishah@aku.edu)
- SM Wasim Jafri (wasim.jafri@aku.edu)
- Saeed Hamid (saeed.hamid@aku.edu)
- Jaweed Akhtar (jaweed.akhter@aku.edu)

Version: 5 Date: 20 February 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
Covering letter

Date: 19-02-2010

To

Dr Rikki Graham PhD
The BioMed Central Editorial Team

Subject: Revised Comments for

MS: 2523688802666021
Severity of acute hepatitis and its outcome in patients with dengue fever in a tertiary care hospital Karachi, Pakistan (South Asia): An Analytic cross sectional study.
Om Parkash, Aysha Almas, Syed Hasnain Alishah, SM Wasim Jafri, Saeed Hamid and Jaweed Akhtar.

Please see my responses to comments made by reviewers

For Reviewer: Dorothea Nitsch

Thank you very much for valuable comments.

1. Use of a standardized protocol for testing on admission of all dengue patients, has been mentioned in the section of study design (page 5). But We selected cohort of hepatitis in dengue patients for study.

2. There were only 6 patients who had concomitant hepatitis B or C. Since this was very small number so we had not included them in our study that is why these have not been mentioned. Regarding the point of alcohol, since this is a Muslim country where alcohol consumption is prohibited religiously so socially it is not acceptable therefore alcohol intake is very low.

3. The aim of the study was to compare patients of dengue infection who had mild/moderate hepatitis with those with severe hepatitis for outcome. Those with normal liver functions do not fall in these groups. Hence I think it is not appropriate to add another group for this aim.

4. Proportions in table I and figure I have been corrected as suggested.

5. Kaplien mier curve/plots of survival over time has added as figure 1b. Log rank test has also been used.

6. Figure II has been changed into box plot
7. Fischer exact test has already been used and mentioned in text in reference to table II. Table II has been labeled again as suggested.

I sincerely hope that this article is now appropriate for publication soon.

Regards,

Dr. Om Parkash

MBBS, FCPS

Student MSc Clinical research,

Trainee Gastroenterology,

Aga Khan University