Author's response to reviews

Title: Effects and Outcomes of Interferon Treatment in Japanese Hepatitis C Patients

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Author's response to reviews: see over
RE: Revised manuscript of MSI23412445741668

Article title: Effects and Outcomes of Interferon Treatment in Japanese Hepatitis C Patients
Authors: Kazumi Yamasaki, Mayumi Tomohiro, Yumiko Nagao, Michio Sata, Toshiaki Shimoda, Kazuhiro Hirase and Satoshi Shirahama
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To the editor

Thank you for your favorite review and novel comments to the manuscript “2123412445741668”. We have carefully read all comments, and have answered each criticism point by point in the revised manuscript as follows. I send you my revised manuscript. The revised sentences and phrases are underlined.

Referee 1

1. Question about the prospective study
   Answer: The manuscript is a prospective cohort study. Therefore, in this manuscript, there are inhabitants whose outcome is unknown. We observed a screening medical examinee prospectively and enrolled a death day and the cause of death in real time. We have added “All people invited to take part in this prospective cohort study agreed to participate.” in page 5.

2. Difference of survival rate between SVR group and non-SVR group
   Answer: As shown in page 11, we wrote that the survival rate was statistically not different between two groups (SVR group and non-SVR group). We have discussed this point in page 13.

3. Table3: Mortality associated with liver-related death in Group A1, Group A2 and Group B using the Kaplan-Meier method, the other disease mortality in groups.
   Answer: There are very few numbers that we showed in table 3. After
SVR by IFN therapy, the subjects who died of HCC were one person. Because HCC developed in the 67-year-old men immediately after SVR, we underwent resection surgically and, however, still repeated the recurrence of the HCC. Because there are few numbers of people, we think that the comparison using Kaplan-Meier method is unnecessary.

4. Positive for HCV antibody and negative for HCV RNA as a control
   Answer: The purpose of this study compared the survival rate between HCV-infected subjects and normal inhabitants without HCV infection (negative for HCV antibody and HCV RNA). Thus, we judged that a person of HCV infection history (positive for HCV antibody and negative for HCV RNA) was not normal and excluded it.

5. Residents older than 70 years
   Answer: We strongly recommended IFN therapy for patients under 70 years of age. But we did not recommend it for patients over 70 years old. It takes bias when we add the patients over 70 years old to this study. Thus, we excluded it.

6. Survival and liver related death in liver cirrhosis patients
   Answer: We did not recommend IFN therapy to patients with liver cirrhosis. Subjects of this study are patients with hepatitis C with the adaptation of the IFN therapy. Thus, we excluded the patients with liver cirrhosis from this study.

7. Methods for diagnosis of HCC
   Answer: We added methods for diagnosis of HCC in the paragraph of page 7 (“Follow-up and Diagnosis of HCC”).

8. Fig5
   Answer: We rewrote correctly (Fig 5).
1. Histological data in Table 1
   Answer: We have added histological data in this Table 1. And we wrote histological evaluation in the text (page6, line 7). We added references cited. Therefore, we corrected the number of references cited.

2. Other causes
   Answer: We have added other causes in the paragraph of page 9, cause of death.

3. Fig5.
   Answer: We rewrote correctly (Fig 5).

We are looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest chance.

Sincerely yours,

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