Author's response to reviews

Title: Changes of Treg and Th17 balance in the development of acute and chronic HBV infection

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir:

This is a revised manuscript of Liang Xuesong, Li ChenZhong, Zhou Ying , Wan MoBin entitled “Changes of Treg and Th17 balance in the development of acute and chronic HBV infection”. We revised the manuscript according to the Editorial Requirements and reviewers’ advices. The following is the changes we made.

Change list:

1. According to the instructions for authors, we changed the structure of our paper, added the abbreviation section, and revised the reference.

2. According to the opinion of reviewers, we reorganized the abstract, especially the method section, introduced the different patient groups studied and also introduced the abbreviation used later (AHB, CHB and ACHBLF). We also revised the result section, stated the specific patient groups in the results section. (page 2 paragraph 2)

3. We explained the previous regarding of Th17 cells and the Treg: Th17 ratio in more detail in introduction section. (page 3 paragraph 2-3).

4. According to the reviewer’s advice, we re-analysed the relationship between the immune factors and liver injury, separately analyse the relationship for the individual patients cohorts. (Fig3-1, Fig3-2 and Fig4)

5. Because of the changes of analysis, we changed the results section, abstract result section and related discussion accordingly. (page 1 abstract: results; page 5 paragraph 3; page 7 paragraph 1-2)

6. In our study we found an inverse correlation of Th17 frequency and viral load in total chronic HBV-infected patients, which is in contrast to the finding of report before. We discussed the cause of the difference. (page 6 paragraph 2).

6. We revised the manuscript carefully to remove the minor mistake, such as replace “Tbil” by “total bilirubin”, describing Treg/Th17 ratio as a pure number.

Thanks very much for your attention to our paper.

Sincerely yours,

Liang Xue-Song and Wan Mo-Bin