Author's response to reviews

Title: Treatment with Pirfenidone for two years decreases fibrosis, cytokine levels and enhances CB2 expression in patients with chronic hepatitis C

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Magdalena Morawska
Executive Editor
BMC Gastroenterology

Enclosed please find the revised version of our manuscript entitled “Treatment with Pirfenidone for two years decreases fibrosis, cytokine levels and enhances CB2 expression in patients with chronic hepatitis C” by L. Flores-Contreras and collaborators. It is important to notice that all changes made are in bold and underlined lettering in the new manuscript according to the reviewers’ queries. We have corrected grammar errors and added the requested point-by-point response. Additionally, we have updated reference # 23 which reflects better the scope of our manuscript.
We believe we’ve fulfilled with the reviewers’ queries and we hope that you find now our manuscript suitable for publication in your prestigious journal.

Should you need any more information on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Response to reviewers

Title: Treatment with Pirfenidone for two years decreases fibrosis, cytokine levels and enhances CB2 expression in patients with chronic hepatitis C.

Reviewer #1:

In the last part of discussion, cost of DAAs in developing countries should be highlighted rather than their supposed low efficacy in G1/G2 infected patients (SVR rate >90% with sofosbuvir).

Response:
We deleted that sentence regarding efficacy of DAAs for G1/G2 genotypes. We replaced it with a paragraph that describes the possible use of pirfenidone in developing countries where DAAs are not available for most patients due to their elevated cost.

Pirfenidone could also be evaluated in other chronic liver disease.

Response:
We have added that point to the discussion.

Needs some language corrections before being published.

Response:
Grammar and language corrections have been carried out.

Reviewer #2:

Reviewer's report:

The paper is substantially improved, however there are some points that must be modified/commented. The reference, Zampino et al must be numbered in progression, thus the reference is not [42] but [15]. All the others reference must be changed accordingly.

Response:
We have corrected the references. References are now sequentially numbered as cited in the manuscript.

Since the variations on CB1 and CB2 are not significant or slight significant, I strongly suggest to cite the paper of Coppola et al. suggesting that the diversity could be due to different polymorphisms to be evaluated in future studies.

Response:
A paragraph in discussion to cite the paper from Coppola et al. and its possible influence in our results has been added.

Needs some language corrections before being published.

Response:
Grammar and language corrections have been carried out.