Author's response to reviews

Title: Glutamine Therapy Reduces Endothelial Adhesion of Sickle Red Blood Cells to Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Re: Title: Glutamine therapy Reduces Endothelial Adhesion of Sickle Red Blood Cells to Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells.

Dear members of editorial board:

Thank you for the opportunity to resubmit the manuscript entitled “Glutamine therapy Reduces Endothelial Adhesion of Sickle Red Blood Cells to Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells.”

We apologize for the extended length of time we had to spend to obtain consensus on our response and revision. We feel this manuscript will add new dimension in management of sickle cell disorder. Please extend our gratitude to the reviewers who have kindly took time to thoroughly review and provide us with pertinent comments to improve the quality of our manuscript.

Sincerely,

Yutaka Niihara, M.D.
Representing the authors for the article

Description of revision for the manuscript entitled “Glutamine therapy Reduces Endothelial Adhesion of Sickle Red Blood Cells to Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells.”

1. phrase “adhesion rate(s)” were changed to “adhesion count(s)”

2. From Methods section the paragraph under “Distribution of RBC adherence to EC monolayers” was deleted.

3. The first sentence of the paragraph under “Statistical analysis” of longitudinal study was changed to “The ratio of mean endothelial adhesion RBC count of patient samples to that of normal control was obtained for each sample.”

4. The following New sentences were added in discussion on page 14 at the end of second paragraph.

“The stimulants for endothelial cells were taken from the methods used in the previous studies by Kalra and colleagues. Their method is well established for static assay and based on their data, we felt their methods were applicable in our project. Adhesion assay for the cross-sectional study and longitudinal studies were conducted at two separate institutions but using same agents to stimulate the endothelial cells. The purpose of utilizing two expert sites for two parts of study was to improve objectivity by
demonstrating that consistent data can be obtained even when assays were conducted by unbiased experts at multiple independent sites.”