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:

June 5, 2005

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 are grateful to the reviewers and editors for the second review. We have made further corrections based on the kind comments by the reviewers.

Sincerely,

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

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

1. phrase "adhesion count(s)" were deleted and changed to phrases that reflect adhesion of sickle RBC to endothelial cells.
2. The following sentences were added the end of result section to describe the data regarding reticulocyte counts and hemoglobin levels: "It needs to be noted that there were no significant change neither in reticulocyte counts nor hemoglobin levels in the longitudinal study. Thus, increase in survival duration of sickle RBC with L-glutamine could not be verified."
3. The following paragraph was added to discuss the lack of significant changes in reticulocyte and hemoglobin levels: "In the studies, we could not verify the increase in RBC survival duration as neither reticulocyte counts nor hemoglobin levels were not changed significantly. However, improvement in endothelial adhesion does not have to automatically result in increase in RBC survival. As these patients are asplenic, irreversibly sickled RBC are not rapidly removed and they will contribute to hemoglobin and hematocrit levels. Also, it is possible that with larger study with longer duration, there may be a change in these parameters with statistical significance."