Author's response to reviews

Title: Significance of a Reduction in HCV RNA Levels at 4 and 12 Weeks in Patients Infected with HCV Genotype 1b for the Prediction of the Outcome of Combination Therapy with Peginterferon and Ribavirin

Authors:

Hidenori Toyoda (tkumada@he.mirai.ne.jp)
Takashi Kumada (hosp3@omh.ogaki.gifu.jp)
Noritomo Shimada (noritomos@jcom.home.ne.jp)
Koichi Takaguchi (k.takaguchi@chp-kagawa.jp)
Tatsuya Ide (ide@med.kurume-u.ac.jp)
Michio Sata (msata@med.kurume-u.ac.jp)
Hiroyuki Ginba (hiroyuki.ginba@roche.com)
Kazuhiro Matsuyama (kazuhiro.matsuyama@roche.com)
Namiki Izumi (nizumi@musashino.jrc.or.jp)

Version: 3 Date: 16 October 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Ross Hopkins  
Senior Operations Coordinator  
BioMed Central  
Floor 6, 236 Gray's Inn Road  
London, WC1X 8HL  
+44 (0)20 3192 2252

MS: 1023004113775855  
Research article  
Significance of a Reduction in HCV RNA Levels at 4 and 12 Weeks in Patients Infected with HCV Genotype 1b for the Prediction of the Outcome of Combination Therapy with Peginterferon and Ribavirin

Dear Sir,  
Thank you for your e-mail on October 9. I revised again the article according to your suggestion. However, I cannot understand what you mean accurately. In the first revision, I described the specific name of the ethics committees of each hospital. Please see page 11 lines 2-5 of the first revision. I described “the ethics committees of Musashino Red Cross Hospital, Kurume University Hospital, Ogaki Municipal Hospital, Shinmatsudo Central General Hospital, and Kagawa Prefectural Central Hospital”. In this second revision, I changed this part “the ethics committees of Musashino Red Cross Hospital, the ethics committees of Kurume University Hospital, the ethics committees of Ogaki Municipal Hospital, the ethics committees of Shinmatsudo Central General Hospital, and the ethics committees of Kagawa Prefectural Central Hospital” (page 11, lines 2-6 in the 2nd revision, underlined). Because the specific names of the each ethics committee is in local language, Japanese, I translated them to English. There was no united ethics committee that evaluated the study as a whole. The ethics committees of individual hospitals evaluated and approved the study protocol. I believe that this would be enough in case of multicenter study and the multicenter study that was approved by the ethics committees of individual participating hospitals is usually accepted by the journals. I send back the text of the revised paper (2nd revision) with this return mail. As figures, there are no modifications. I am looking forward to the final decision.  
Sincerely yours,
Hidenori Toyoda, M.D., Ph.D.
Department of Gastroenterology, Ogaki Municipal Hospital
4-86 Minaminokawa, Ogaki, 503-8502, Japan
Phone: (+81) 584-81-3341
Fax: (+81) 584-75-5715
E-Mail Address; tkumada@he.mirai.ne.jp

There is no grant support and other assistance, and there is no conflict of interest on this manuscript.