Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 30 August 2012

Reviewer: Norio Akuta

Reviewer's report:

Toyoda et al. conducted a multicenter study to validate the importance of reduction in HCV RNA levels 4 and 12 weeks after starting PEG-IFN plus ribavirin combination therapy as predictor of SVR. They indicated that the reduction in HCV RNA levels 4 and 12 weeks was a strong independent predictor for SVR overall, and these variables were also not useful for predicting SVR in patients who showed a slow virologic response and experienced 72-week extended regimen. This is an important and reliable paper based on a multicenter study.

Minor point
Ref 7 should be changed for Intervirology 2005;48:372-380.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.