Reviewer’s report

Title: Analysis of HCV quasispecies dynamic under selective pressure of combined therapy

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Reviewer: Magdalena Figlerowicz

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The paper “Analysis of HCV quasispecies dynamic under selective pressure of combined therapy”, written by Ana CG Jardim et al, concerns a very important medical and virological issue. The research regarding the parameters of positive response to antiviral therapy in patients with chronic hepatitis C has been continued for many years.

This manuscript belongs to a current stream within this research, that is, the influence of genetic diversity of virus on effectiveness of treatment.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Authors analyzed NS5A quasispecies of HCV before, during and after therapy in 3 groups of patients (SVR, NR, ETR). They omitted patients who were HCV RNA–negative in the 12th week of therapy, but in whom, during further treatment, for example in the 24th, 36th or 48th week, a breakthrough was observed (HCV RNA was positive). It is the forth possible way of patient’s response to treatment. If authors did not observe this kind of response to antiviral therapy in their patients I suggest explaining it in the manuscript.

2. In References, probably the same paper is on 42 and 45 position. The title is identical, but the list of authors is not exactly the same, and in 42 position, year, volume, pages are missed.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.