Author’s response to reviews

Title: Detection of hepatitis C virus RNA in saliva of patients with active infection not associated with periodontal or liver disease severity

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editors,

We are submitting the revised version of our manuscript.

As you have suggested, we have done the following changes:

(1) ETHICS STATEMENT
Research involving human subjects (including human material or human data) that is reported in the manuscript must have been performed with the approval of an appropriate ethics committee. Research carried out on humans must be in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration (http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html). A statement to this effect must appear in the Methods section of the manuscript, including the name of the body which gave approval, with a reference number where appropriate.

R: We have added this sentence in the Methods section (page 5, lines 16-19):

The study was performed following ethical regulations approved by the Institutional Research Committee (Protocol: R-2008-2101-10) and in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

(2) CONSENT STATEMENT
Please state in the Methods section whether written informed consent for participation in the study was obtained from participants or, where participants are children, a parent or guardian.

R: We have added this sentence in the Methods section (page 5, lines 23-25):
An epidemiological questionnaire was applied to evaluate risk factors, and written informed consent was obtained from each participant.

(2) AUTHORS’ CONTRIBUTIONS
In order to give appropriate credit to each author of a paper, the individual contributions of authors to the manuscript should be specified in this section.

R: We have added this section before the References section (page 13, lines 2-9):

Authors’ contributions
FSJ, VVR, JRL and GSL participated in the study design, molecular tests, in the data analysis and in drafting and discussing the manuscript. VLHG and FJMA performed the evaluation of periodontal disease using the modified gingival index and presence of dental plaque and sampled the patients. DMM and MAMT received the patients in the Gastroenterology Service and assessment clinical and laboratory studies and participated in the analysis of clinical epidemiological data. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

In behalf of the authors,
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