RESUBMISSION LETTER

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

Metepec, Puebla México,

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Biomed Central Editorial

Dear Editors,

We are sending the revised version of the manuscript entitled: "Detection of hepatitis C virus RNA in saliva of patients with active infection not associated with periodontal or liver disease severity"; signed by the authors: Sosa-Jurado F, Hernández-Galindo VL, Meléndez-Mena D, Mendoza-Torres MA, Martínez-Arroniz FJ, Vallejo-Ruiz V, Reyes-Leyva J, Santos-López G.

Below it is a point-by-point response to requirements of reviewers.

Reviewer: Ching-Sheng Hsu
1. There remains no solid data supporting that the presence of HCV in saliva is an effective HCV transmission route, and the authors need to discuss this point in their manuscript.

A: As we have previously mentioned, in our paper and in the re-submission letter, there are not solid data supporting the presence of HCV in saliva is an effective transmission route. In our paper we associated the viral load with presence of HCV RNA in saliva, however we have not any evidence that presence o HCV have a role in the intrafamilial transmission.

We included this sentence at beginning of Discussion: “Several studies reported the presence of HCV RNA in saliva, but the infectivity of salivary HCV particles has not been confirmed. Then, there is no solid data supporting that the presence of HCV in saliva is an effective HCV transmission route.” Nevertheless, as it is established by other studies (Refs. 42 and 43) the intrafamilial transmission of HCV occurs but is not known the mechanism yet. We added some of present paragraph in the discussion, and it must be emphasized that no incontrovertible evidence has been determined the presence of HCV in saliva is a transmission route of infection.

2. The calculated sample size is 80, but the sample size of this study is 45. That means that this study can not detect a significant difference between groups, and the authors need to discuss this point in their manuscript.

A: We think that final text on sample size in Material and Methods section is confused: “N” value represents, as it has established in the same text, the number of patients without treatment; and was used to calculate the final value of sample size.”The calculated value of sample size was n=39” and is the first sentence of results. Then, the sample size of our study was adequate.

3. According to the reply "In our work we mentioned two clinical parameters in patients, in order to obtain other data related with the severity of liver disease. Prothrombine time and platelets counts are important parameters may be associated with bleeding of bucal cavity, therefore may be associated with a higher probability of infection through saliva, however, none of two parameters was statistically associated with presence of HCV RNA in saliva.”, the authors need to add this explanation into their manuscript.

A: We have added the mentioned text in Discussion section, page 11.

In behalf of the authors

Francisca Sosa Jurado, Ph.D.