Author's response to reviews

Title: Fast relapse and high drop out rate of 48 weeks daily interferon monotherapy in HIV-infected patients with chronic hepatitis C.

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To the reviewer

1) The abstract was present in the apposite section, now is included in the text

Methods

1) See underlined text
2) See underlined text
3) See underlined text

Results

1) See underlined text
2) There was no difference as regards baseline CD4 cell count between responders and non responders.
3) No virological breakthroughs were recorded.
4) See underlined text
5) See underlined text
6) See underlined text
7) No infectious complications were recorded at any time.
8) See underlined text
9) See underlined text
10) See underlined text

Discussion
1. Data coming out from published studies about interferon mono therapy regarded small numbers of patients (7 to 41) treated with different doses of interferon (cumulative dose ranging from 78 MU to 828 MU), generating different sustained response rate (0% to 34%). Thus we prefer arbitrarily to cumulate these data to avoid to describe studies with different methodology and patients characteristics, because the only way to do a correct analysis in this setting is to perform a meta-analysis.

2. See underlined text

Discretionary revision

We think that the table shows both ALT and HCV-RNA trend, while the graph should show only the virological response rate.