Author's response to reviews

Title: Comparative Study of Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection Due to Genotypes 1 and 3 Referred for Treatment in Southeast Brazil

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Author's response to reviews:

November 9th, 2008

To
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Comparative Study Among Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C Genotypes 1 and 3 Referred to Treatment.
Aline Vigani, Maria Pavan, Raquel Tozzo, Eduardo Gonçales, Adriana Feltrin, Viviane Fais, Maria Silvia Kroll Lazarini, Neiva Gonçales and Fernando Gonçales Jr

Dear Dr. Graham:

We are writing you to submit our revised manuscript “Comparative Study Among Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C Genotypes 1 and 3 Referred to Treatment” (9079354322028216), and to once again thank you for considering it for publication.
The authors have carefully reviewed the comments made by the panel of reviewers and responses to each of the reviewers are listed below.

Response to Reviewer 1’s comments:

Reviewer’s report
Title: Comparative Study Among Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C Genotypes 1 and 3 Referred to Treatment.
Version: 2 Date: 1 October 2008
Reviewer: Seyed-Moayer Alavian
Reviewer’s report:
Minor revision (Language)
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being Published
• The manuscript was reviewed to correct the language
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Response to Reviewer 2’s comments:

Reviewer’s report
Title: Comparative Study Among Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C Genotypes 1 and 3 Referred to Treatment.
Version: 2 Date: 9 October 2008
Reviewer: Mindie Nguyen, M.D., M.A.S.
Reviewer’s report:
I would like to ask for the following minor but essential revision:
1. Table 1: The title should be: Patient characteristics. Not "Univariate risk factors ...." as currently noted.
• The table 1 title was changed to: "Patients characteristics associated with hepatitis C virus (HCV) genotypes 1 and 3 infections (n=275)"
2. I understand that dose reduction and race information are not available but these are VERY important predictors for SVR. Therefore, it should be clearly pointed out and discussed in the Discussion section and that the conclusion of the study is limited given the lack of these data, and that the significance of the study results is to point out that while SVR for genotype 1 is only slightly lower
than reported results from registration trial, SVR for genotype 3 is much lower than the reported 80% rate for genotype 2/3 in registration trial and thus further study in genotype 3 patients with good control for race, dose reduction etc... would be done.
• This point was included in the discussion section

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:
No

We appreciate your consideration of these revisions, and remain excited at the opportunity to publish this manuscript in. We look forward to any additional discussion required to address your editorial concerns and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
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