Author's response to reviews

Title: Potential Plasma Markers of Type 1 and Type 2 Leprosy Reactions: A Preliminary Report

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Author's response to reviews: see over
TO:

BMC Infectious Diseases

Dear EDITOR in chief

We are submitting the revised form of our manuscript entitled: “Potential Plasma Markers of Type 1 and Type 2 Leprosy Reactions: A Preliminary Report”. We have accepted all the suggestions and made the requested changes in this revised form and the rebuttals to reviewers’ questions are:

Reviewer 1: Ricardo Forastiero

1. The Discussion section should be shortened by at least 30%. Abstract might also be shortened. It is indispensable to mention the number of patients included in this study in the abstract.

Response: The Discussion section was shortened as required (previous version=1223 words, current version= 842 words, 31,16% reduction). The Abstract was also shortened (previous= 350 words, new version=289 words). We have also included the number of patients in the abstract.

2. The p values of significant variables must be included in both figures in order to help the reader to quickly identify it.

Response: We have added the p values of significant variables in the figures.
Reviewer 2: Euzenir Sarno

1) The authors stated that “All reactions were treated with corticosteroids (lines 158-9).
Response: We have deleted this sentence about treatment so that the reader does not get confused with the full information about treatment provided in lines 182-4.

Does that mean that all T2R patients were treated with steroids in combination with thalidomide (line 213)?
Response: The full information about treatment of reactional patients is in lines 182-4: “Prednisolone was the treatment of choice for all T1R patients. T2R patients were treated with steroid (n=6) or thalidomide (n=3) or steroid and thalidomide combination (n=1)”.

2) There is no mention of the occurrence of neuritis. If the data are available, they should be included.
Response: The information about neuritis has been added to the text in line 181-2: “None of the leprosy patients included in the study had neuritis”.

3) In line 98, “T1R develop insidiously.” I do not share this opinion based on my personal experience. And, then, what do the authors mean by “insidiously”. In many patients, T1R occur quite abruptly and, in others, become manifest within a very short period of time.
Response: We agree that insidiously is not an adequate term to describe the development of T1R, therefore it has been deleted. The new sentence in lines 65-6 is now: “T1R usually develops abruptly as exacerbations of pre-existing skin and nerve lesions”.

We assure that this manuscript will not be submitted to any other journal while under BMC Infectious Diseases appreciation. Moreover all authors have contributed, seen, and approved this revised version of the manuscript.

Best Regards,
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