Author's response to reviews

Title: Genetic and biochemical markers of hydroxyurea therapeutic response in sickle cell anemia

Authors:

Danilo GH Silva (dangrunig@gmail.com)
Edis Belini-Junior (belini.jnr@gmail.com)
Gisele CS Carrocini (giselecristine_bio@yahoo.com.br)
Lidiane S Torres (lidiane.unesp@gmail.com)
Octávio Ricci-Junior (diretoria.hemocentro@hospitaldebase.com.br)
Clarisse LC Lobo (diretoria@hemorio.rj.gov.br)
Claudia R Bonini-Domingos (claudiabonini@sjrp.unesp.br)
Eduardo A Almeida (ealmeida@ibilce.unesp.br)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover Letter

Dear Editor

I am submitting here the research article entitled "Genetic and biochemical markers of hydroxyurea therapeutic response in sickle cell anemia" to be considered for publication in BMC Medical Genetics. The paper yields, to our knowledge, a unique opportunity in which both genetic factor ($\beta^S$-haplotypes) and oxidative stress markers were simultaneously measured and correlated with hemoglobin Fetal levels and hydroxyurea (HU) use in Brazilian sickle cell anemia (SCA) patients. The main findings were that HU treatment seems to have a kind of "haplotype-dependent" pharmacological effect. We confirmed a hyperoxidative status among SCA patients and the importance of oxidative stress markers on the clinical manifestations variety of these patients and probably in the therapeutic response monitoring.

Hope this work can be considered suitable for publication in BMC Medical Genetics.

Sincerely D.G.H da Silva.

Below are the items required in submission standards.

Conflict of interest disclosure

The authors declare no competing financial or relationship with other people or organizational interests.

Authorship


Submission Declaration

The authors declare that the work described has not been published previously or it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere including
electronically in the same form, in English or in any other language, without the written consent of the copyright-holder.

**Suggested Reviewers:**

Samir Ballas (Samir.Ballas@jefferson.edu)

Dr. Ballas' research work spans the sickle gene like a pleiotropic in nature causing a highly heterogeneous phenotypic expression. His laboratory has focused on studying the effects of the genetic features of sickle cell syndromes on the cellular and clinical expression of the disease. Specific approaches included the determination of predictors of the severity of the disease, pathobiology of the disease, cellular changes during painful episodes, and the preventive therapy with Hydroxyurea - an inducer of fetal hemoglobin production.

Ivan Lucena Ângulo (angulo@hemocentro.fmrp.usp.br)

Dr. Ivan has experience in medical clinic with emphasis on hematology, acting on the sickle cell diseases. And he is also part of the editorial board of the Hematology and Hemotherapy Brazilian Journal.

**Ethical considerations (Changes made)**

All subjects gave their informed consent and the study was reviewed and ethically approved by the Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) according to Brazilian Regulations and Ethical Committee of Sao Paulo State University (0015.0.229.000-09).