Author's response to reviews

Title: The association of HLA-DQB1, -DQA1 and -DPB1 alleles with anti-glomerular basement membrane (GBM) disease in Chinese patients

Authors:

Huan Luo (luohuan2009@yahoo.com.cn)
Min Chen (leimeng@public3.bta.net.cn)
Zhao Cui (cuizhao_pku@163.com)
Rui Yang (yr318@163.com)
Peng Cheng Xu (nkxpc@163.com)
Ming Hui Zhao (mhzhao@bjmu.edu.cn)
Xu Jie Zhou (zhouxujie@bjmu.edu.cn)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Re: MS: 4979173634920508

Title: The association of HLA-DQB1, -DQA1 and -DPB1 alleles with anti-glomerular basement membrane (GBM) disease in Chinese patients

BMC Nephrology

Thank you for giving us a second opportunity to revise our above manuscript. We have revised the manuscript carefully according to the Editor’s and Reviewers’ comments and recommendation. The revision was underlined in the text according your requirement. Briefly speaking, the revision included the following issues:

1. The re-evaluation of the distribution of age by Shapiro-Wilk test.

2. The age has been log10 transformed to normalize its distribution.

3. References have been added for the definition of anti-GBM disease.

The response to the each question or comment was listed point-by-point in the attached pages. We hope the revised form will be suitable for publication in your journal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Min Chen
**Answer to Reviewer**

**Major Compulsory Revisions:**

1) To evaluate the age distribution, was used the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. The number of patients analyzed is n=44 and the Shapiro-Wilk test is a better test for a small sample size. The Authors should apply the Shapiro-Wilk test. The age at diagnosis was expressed as median and 1st and 3rd quartile, but the age should be log10 transformed to normalize its distribution.

**Answer:** Thank you for the important suggestion. We have applied the Shapiro-Wilk test to re-evaluate the age distribution of patients. Since the p value was 1.92×10^{-4}, these patients’ age was not normally distributed. After log10 transformation of age, we compared the age of patients between HLA-DPB1*0401 positive group and negative group. It was found that the age of the former group was significantly younger than the latter one. It has been revised in the text according to the recommendation.

**Minor Essential Revisions:**

1) In the Material and Methods section were listed the parameters that define the anti-GBM disease, a reference should be added and “etc” should be eliminated.
Answer: Yes, it has been revised according to the recommendation.