Reviewer's report

Title: Long-Term Clinical, Immunologic and Virologic Impact of Glucocorticoids on the Chronic Phase of HIV Infection

Version: Date: 12 January 2004

Reviewer: Petra Graham

Reviewer's report:

General

The revisions that the authors performed have greatly improved the paper and I have only a few minor but compulsory recommendations generally with respect to spelling and/or typographical errors.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Throughout the paper the authors vary between using round brackets and square brackets when referencing publications. Please choose one format and be consistent.

1. Abstract, line 5 of the “Results” paragraph: change pourcentage to percentage
2. Abstract, line 6 of the “Results” paragraph: change maintaining to maintaining
3. Methods section, paragraph 1 line 1: I suggested changing “details” to “detail elsewhere”
4. Methods section, paragraph 2 line 10: add a comma after “the second year on”
5. Methods section, page 6 line 4: do not make the plus on CD4+ a superscript
6. I suggest adding the figure references to the “Two-year evolution of activation and apoptosis…” (page 12) section where the statistics are discussed to aid in referring to the correct plot.
7. Results section, page 12 line 12: remove one of the “1”s from “remained significantly decreased at 1 year 1.”
8. Results section, page 12 line 15: change the LRt in “(PLRt=0.02)” to a subscript
9. Results section, page 14 line 7: change maintained to maintained
10. Results section, page 15 line 6: change maintaining to maintaining
11. This is a suggestion only: Discussion page 17 3rd sentence: do you have a reference for peripheral CD4 cell count being a good surrogate marker of immunologic evolution?
12. Discussion, page 18 line 14: change figure to figures
13. If appropriate perhaps you could add “In developing countries (where access to better treatments is limited), PDN should be tried…” in the first sentence of the last paragraph of the discussion.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:

None