Author's response to reviews

Title: Sustained eradication of hepatitis C virus by low-dose long-term interferon therapy in a renal transplant recipient dual-infected with hepatitis B and C: a case report

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Version: 2 Date: 14 November 2010

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Ms. Ref. No.: ?
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Dear Editors,

Thank you very much for your letter of Oct 23, 2010 with the opportunity to improve our manuscript. We have revised the manuscript according to the reviewers’ suggestions. The changes were marked with red letters in the revised manuscript. The followings are the point-by-point responses to the referee’s comments:

Reviewer #1
1. The reviewer suggested us to add new graphic information showing HBV-HCV viremia trend. This was done accordingly as the Figure was modified.
2. The two typos were corrected. (page 4, line 7 and page 5, line 7)

Reviewer #2
1. The reviewer asked for the reason why lamivudine was not used in 1998. This is due to unavailability of the drug in our hospital until 1999 (added to page 5, line 25 and page 6, line 1). Also, our insurance policy limited the duration of lamivudine usage.
2. The extended usage of interferon in patients who could not cleared the virus was inspired by recent studies showing that low dose maintenance therapy could prevent histology progression (added to page 7, lines 1-4 and references 13, 14).
3. In Taiwan, the duration of lamivudine usage was limited to 1.5 years at that time owing to our National Health Insurance Policy (added to page 6, lines 1-3).

Thank you again for your help. We hope the paper is now acceptable.

Sincerely,

Chau-Ting Yeh, MD, PhD