Author's response to reviews

Title: Antiviral Triple Therapy with Silibinin, pegylated Interferon and Ribavirin in a patient with HCV genotype 3 re-infection after Liver Transplantation: a case report

Authors:

Johanna Knapstein (johanna.knapstein@unimedizin-mainz.de)
Marcus Wörns (marcus-alexander.woerns@unimedizin-mainz.de)
Peter R Galle (jutta.karn@unimedizin-mainz.de)
Tim Zimmermann (tim.zimmermann@unimedizin-mainz.de)

Version: 4 Date: 25 May 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Author's response to reviews

Title: Combination Therapy with Silibinin, pegylated Interferon and Ribavirin in a patient with HCV genotype 3 re-infection after Liver Transplantation.

Authors:
Johanna Knapstein (johanna.knapstein@unimedizin-mainz.de)
Marcus A Wörns (marcus-alexander.woerns@unimedizin-mainz.de)
Peter R Galle (peter.galle@unimedizin-mainz.de)
Tim Zimmermann (tim.zimmermann@unimedizin-mainz.de)

Version: 1 Date: 12 May 2014

Author's response to reviews:

Reviewer 1:

Title: "Combination therapy.....", I would not use the term triple therapy throughout the manuscript, "in a patient" needs no further description, like "a case report"

“Triple therapy” was replaced by “Combination therapy” throughout the manuscript. “A case report” was deleted.

Intro: The approval of TPR and BOC is no longer relevant in countries with high quality medical evolvement, please clarify and mention the approval of SOF in Western countries, and SIM in the US, which is coming up soon also in Germany (June 2014?)

The status of TVR and BOC was clarified and the approval of SOF and SIM was mentioned. Nevertheless, to date, TVR and BOC remain the only available direct acting antiviral agents in many countries.
Case presentation: I wonder if you really have different ULN for AST and ALT; I don’t remember that

The ULN for AST and ALT was confirmed.

Discussion: "PI based ....is NOT new and NOT the standard therapy in GT1 worldwide, certainly NOT in Germany.

The manuscript was written some months ago before the approval of sofosbuvir and simeprevir.
Therefore, we changed this to the current standard of care.

Discussion: Please go a little bit in detail with silibinin, and don’t shorten it to "substantial antiviral effect". One strength of your case report, which is not really highlighted yet, is the role of IFN, which was effective only in the combination with silibinin, this is somehow impressive, even with the data which are already published, give a short hypothesis

The antiviral potency of silibinin was described and the IFN sensitising effect discussed.
To date, the underlying mechanisms of antiviral action are not fully understood.

Figure: AST is not important, many lab values, a bit confusing, concentrate on the relevant.

We reworked the figure and deleted AST.

Reviewer 2:
The required explanations were given and changes were made as recommended by the reviewer.

We thank the reviewers for their helpful comments and feel that the manuscript has been significantly improved.

On behalf of all of the authors, Sincerely yours,

Johanna Knapstein and Tim Zimmermann