Author’s response to reviews

Title: CCL4 Is the Only Predictor for Non-Responder in GT-1 CHC Patients with Favorable IL28B genotype Treated with PegIFN/RBV

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Tandon
Editorial Board Member,
BMC Gastroenterology

Thank you for reviewing our revised manuscript entitled "CCL4 Is the Only Predictor for Non-Responder in GT-1 CHC Patients with Favorable IL28B genotype Treated with PegIFN/RBV".

We provide in this letter concise point-by-point responses to the reviewers' comments, along with a revised manuscript for consideration in your journal.

Editor Comments:

Reviewer #1:

1. In Table (1): HCV RNA log10 level shows high SD, indicating non-normal distribution. It is better to show numbers in median (IQR) and use Mann-Whitney test for comparison. (page 22)
Answer: Data were incorporated into the revised table.

2. In Table (2): Univariate analysis of CCL3 showed it is not significant (p=0.064) and it was not included in Multivariate analysis. However, according to authors (Page 9 line 14), "Variables that achieved a statistical significance less than 0.10 on univariate analysis were entered into multivariate logistic regression analysis", so CCL3 should be included in multiple analysis.

Answer: Those variables with P<0.10 in the univariate analysis were included in multivariate analysis, including IL28B, CXCL10, CXCL11, CCL3, CCL4 and liver cirrhosis. Data were incorporated into the revised table as below. By univariate logistic regression analysis, rs12979860 CC genotype, CXCL10, CXCL11, CCL3, CCL4 and liver cirrhosis were the factors for non-NR, but rs12979860 CC genotype was still the only independent factor for NR by multivariate logistic analysis. (page10, line 13 and page 24)

3. In Table (3): HCV RNA log10 level shows high SD, indicating non-normal distribution. It is better to show numbers in median (IQR) and use Mann-Whitney test for comparison.

Answer: Data were incorporated into the revised table as below. (page 25)

4. In Table (4): Univariate analysis of CXCL9, CXCL11, CCL3, and liver cirrhosis showed it is not significant and they were not included in Multivariate analysis. They should be included in multiple analysis since there p value is <0.10.

Answer: Those variables with P<0.10 in the univariate analysis were included in multivariate analysis, including CXCL10, CXCL11, CCL3, CCL4 and liver cirrhosis. Data were incorporated into the revised table as below. CXCL10, CXCL11, CCL3, CCL4 and liver cirrhosis were the predictive factors for non-NR by univariate logistic analysis, but CCL4 was still the only independent predictor for non-NR by multivariate logistic analysis. (page11, line 9 and page 27)

5. Minor considerations include:

   · Some abbreviations were used once or twice only and should be removed (like RVR, EVR).
   · In page 4, line 27 "null responder" should be changed to "non response"
   · In page 7, line 27 "would be tested" should be changed to "was tested"
   · In page 7, line 52 "producing by" should be changed to "produced by"
   · In page 8, line 7 "described11" should be changed to "described."
   · In page 13, line 7 "may explained" should be changed to "may explain"
Answer: We had made our changes as your suggestions above.