Reviewer's report

Title: Sustained serological and complete responses in HBeAg-Positive Patients treated with Peginterferon alfa-2b: a 6-Year Long-Term Follow-Up of a Multicenter, Randomized, Controlled Trial in China

Version: 2 Date: 21 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Michael Gschwantler

Reviewer's report:

The authors have well addressed most issues raised by the reviewers.

I have the following comments:

The numbers in the "LTFU"-Section of table 2 do not fit to the numbers given in table 3. For example according to table 2 there were 45 patients with HBe Negativity at LTFU in the low dose PEG-group (without additional antiviral treatment) and in table 3 there are 46 patients in the low dose PEG group without NA-therapy!

For me the main conclusion of this paper is that there are no clinically relevant differences between the three treatment groups during the long-term follow-up.

Honestly, I do not understand the clinical significance of the term "cumulative response rate" in the context of the paper. From table 3 it can be seen that the overall complete response rate is far below 70% in the high dose 48 weeks group after 6 years - and this is the most significant clinical end point.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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