Author's response to reviews

Title: Variations in DEPDC5 gene and its association with chronic Hepatitis C virus infection in Saudi Arabia

Authors:

Mashael R Al-Anazi (maalanazi@kfshrc.edu.sa)
Sabine Matou Nasri (matouepnasrisa@NGHA.MED.SA)
Ayman A Abdo (aabdo@ksu.edu.sa)
Faisal M Sanai (faisalsanai@hotmail.com)
Mohammed Q Khan (MohamedKhan@kfshrc.edu.sa)
Ali Albenmousa (albenmousa@gmail.com)
Hamad I Al-Ashgar (alashgar@kfshrc.edu.sa)
Nisreen Z Khalaf (nkhalaf35@kfshrc.edu.sa)
Mohammed N Al-Ahdal (ahdal@kfshrc.edu.sa)
Ahmed A Al-Qahtani (aqahtani@kfshrc.edu.sa)

Version: 5 Date: 23 September 2014

Author's response to reviews:

Title: Variations in DEPDC5 gene and its association with chronic Hepatitis C virus infection in Saudi Arabia

Authors:

Mashael R Al-Anazi, Sabine Matou Nasri, Ayman A Abdo, Faisal M Sanai, Mohammed Q Khan, Ali Albenmousa, Hamad I Al-Ashgar, Nisreen Z Khalaf, Mohammed N Al-Ahdal and Ahmed A Al-Qahtani

Version: 2 Date: 2 September 2014

Object: MS: 1670954265127887-
Variations in DEPDC5 gene and its association with chronic Hepatitis C virus infection in Saudi Arabia.

Study from Al-Anazi et al

Thank you for consideration of our manuscript for publication in your journal. We have modified the above manuscript according to your reviewer's comments.

Reviewer #1 (Pin-Nan Cheng)

Comment #1: For the point that “the idea of including cirrhosis in the analysis came from the fact that HCC always occurs in HCV patients in the context of cirrhosis” (Page 5, lines 128-130), the authors need to add references for this point.

Response:
Reference included (Page 5, line 130)

Comment #2: The authors need to show the data of HCV genotype, and discuss the possible confounding effect of DM on their study.

Response:
1. HCV genotypes in this study were included in table 1 and in the results section (Page 9, lines 204-207).
2. Data for the prevalence of diabetes mellitus (DM) in these patients are described in table 1 and in the results section (Page 9, Lines 208-212).
3. The possible role of DM was addressed in the discussion section (Pages 14-15, lines 310-320)

Comment #3: On page 6, lines 150-15, “Liver cirrhosis was based on liver biopsy or platelet count of <90,000/l and fibroscan (ultrasonography [US] or computed tomography [CT]) evidence of cirrhosis.” Does it mean that a patient need to have both platelet count of <90,000/l and fibroscan (ultrasonography [US] or computed tomography [CT]) evidence of cirrhosis for a diagnosis of liver cirrhosis? Because fibroscan and ultrasonography are different, the authors need to clarify this issue.

Response:
This section was modified and re-written (Pages 6-7, lines 146-156).

Comment #4: For response to comment 7, “As represented in Table 9. We have done multivariate analysis, including age, sex, BMI and platelets in addition to the SNPs in DEPDC5? The authors need to show the variables of their analyses in
Reviewer # 2 (Kuan-Fu Liao)

Reviewer's report:
Accept without revision
The authors studied variations in DEPDC5 gene and its association with chronic Hepatitis C virus infection in Saudi Arabia. Their findings are generally of interest and importance in its field.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests

Author's response to comments

Title: Variations in DEPDC5 gene and its association with chronic Hepatitis C virus infection in Saudi Arabia
Authors:
Mashael R Al-Anazi, Sabine Matou Nasri, Ayman A Abdo, Faisal M Sanai, Mohammed Q Khan, Ali Albenmousa, Hamad I Al-Ashgar, Nisreen Z Khalaf, Mohammed N Al-Ahdal and Ahmed A Al-Qahtani

Version: 3 Date: 23 September 2014

On the basis of the comments we have received we feel that your manuscript is suitable for publication in the journal. However, before we proceed with acceptance there are some further editorial revisions which we require you to make.

Comment # 1: Competing Interests: Please be advised that manuscripts must include a Competing interests? section. This should be placed after the
Conclusions/Abbreviations. If there are none to declare, please include the statement “The authors declare that they have no competing interests.”

Done (kindly see page 16, lines 352-353).

Comment # 2: Authors Contributions: For manuscripts with more than one author, all BMC Series journals require an Authors’ Contributions section to be placed after the Competing Interests section.

Done (Kindly see pages 16-17, lines 355-359).

Comment # 3: Acknowledgements: By way of a section “Acknowledgements”, please acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the article by making substantial contributions to conception, design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, or who was involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content, but who does not meet the criteria for authorship. Please also include the source(s) of funding for each author, and for the manuscript preparation.

Done (Kindly see page 17, lines 361-367).

Comment # 4: please include tables at the end of the manuscript if you wish for it to appear along with the main manuscript text instead of an additional file.

Done.