Author's response to reviews

Title: Incidence rates of tuberculosis in chronic hepatitis C infected patients with or without interferon based therapy: a population-based cohort study in Taiwan

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Version: 2
Date: 30 July 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

It is our great pleasure to submit our manuscript, “Incidence rates of tuberculosis in chronic hepatitis C infected patients with or without interferon based therapy: a population-based cohort study in Taiwan”, for publication in your prestigious journal. The work is original, unpublished, and has not been submitted elsewhere for publication. All authors have read and approved the submitted version of the manuscript.

We believe that the major contributions of the research described in our manuscript are as follows:

1. This population-based cohort study was based on data obtained from a random sample of $10^6$ beneficiaries from the Taiwan National Health Insurance Program with a long-term follow-up period.
2. During the 1-year and long-term follow-up periods, the incidence rates of tuberculosis (TB) in HCV-patients with or without interferon-based therapy (IBT) were not significantly different.
3. Although this study did not demonstrate an association between IBT and tuberculosis, caution should be taken for patients with HIV who live in TB endemic areas or are in jail while receiving IBT.

We believe that the readers of your prestigious journal will find our research interesting. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,
Yen-Hsu Chen, M.D. PhD.