Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of naturally occurring NS5A resistance-associated substitutions in patients infected with hepatitis C virus subtype 1a, 1b, and 3a, co-infected or not with HIV in Brazil

Version: 1 Date: 18 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Kevin S Cashman

Reviewer's report:

Overall Assessment: The revision of the manuscript entitled "Prevalence of naturally occurring NS5A resistance-associated substitutions in patients infected with hepatitis C virus subtype 1a, 1b, and 3a, co-infected or not with HIV in Brazil" was well done. It seems that the authors have made a fine effort to incorporate the reviewers changes, and I believe that this has achieved a much higher quality result. The manuscript reads much more fluidly and can be digested more easily. I would like to commend the authors on formally broaching the shortcomings of the article within their discussion, and I feel this article would make a good start to understanding the frequencies of DAA resistance in the Brazilian population, which may provide high dividends for patient specific outcomes following treatment. There are a few minor corrections that need to be addressed and I would like to see more information provided on comparisons to cohorts from other countries to fully understand the differences in the Brazilian population. I feel this would strengthen the discussion further. Minor Issues: Line 60: "Worldwide" does not need capitalization. Lines 82-84: Sentence would benefit from listing the DAA medications following a colon. Lines 150-151: The sentence seems to be a fragment as is, and will need minor rewording. Lines 157-158: Can the authors speculate on the significance of the non-RAS mutations that are found within this cohort? Lines 216-223: Comparisons to other mutations in different ethnic backgrounds. Is this a normal distribution in comparison to other studies, or are there certain mutations (as discussed in the article) that have higher prevalence and if so how do they compare with other ethnic or geographical populations? The authors hinted at this in the discussion but I think a formal comparison may be helpful to better understand viral mutation distribution and rates within Brazil. Line 236: Change "once" to 'since'

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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Yes

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