Author’s response to reviews

Title: Telbivudine can safely reduce mother-to-child transmission in chronic hepatitis B women after 12 weeks of gestation

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BMC Infectious Diseases

Dear BMC Infectious Diseases Editors and Reviewers:
Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers’ comments concerning our manuscript entitled “Telbivudine can safely reduce mother-to-child transmission in chronic hepatitis B women after 12 weeks of gestation” (ID: INFD-D-18-00581R4). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer’s comments are as following.

Responds to the reviewer’s comments:

1. In the “Funding” section of your declarations, please clarify the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

Response: We have re-written this part as “Li-Fen Han performed this study and play a role in collection, analysis, and interpretation of data. Jian-Ming Zheng checked data and wrote the draft. Lv-Feng Yao designed this study and supervised the manuscript.”

2. Please confirm whether informed consent, written or verbal, was obtained from all participants and clearly state this in your "Ethics and Consent to Participate" section. If verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure.

Response: The informed consent obtained was written. That the informed consent obtained was verbal is not forbidden in our hospital. We have clearly state this in the "Ethics and Consent to Participate" section. We have re-written that as “All the CHB mothers were signed informed consent, and all subjects consented before screening for the study.” Thanks for the reviewer’s kind remind.

3. Please include a statement in the Authors' contributions section to the effect that all authors have read and approved the manuscript, and ensure that this is the case.

Response: The statement in the Authors’ contributions section to the effect that all authors have read and approved the manuscript and ensure that this is the case has been uploaded. Thanks for the reviewer’s kind remind.

4. Please add a “Conclusions” section after the “Discussion” section. This should state clearly the main conclusions of the research article and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance.
Response: We add a “Conclusions” section after the “Discussion” section. We have re-written this part as “The antiviral therapy in HBeAg positive women whose HBV DNA are > 106 IU/mL was started at the third trimester to prevent MTCT is recommended. However, it’s still have failed immunoprophylaxis in some high viral load CHB mothers. Antiviral therapy start at an earlier time may be a solution, but we have insufficient data to prove that it is a safe method. In this study, we found that telbivudine treatment at 12-34 weeks of gestation in HBeAg positive or negative CHB mothers with serum HBV DNA > 6.0 log10 IU/mL is well tolerance and safe in our limited data. Thus, telbivudine can safely reduce mother-to-child transmission in chronic hepatitis B women after 12 weeks of gestation.”. Thanks for the your suggestions.

5. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response: We have re-written the paper according to reviewer’s comment. Thank you very much for your comments.

We tried our best to improve the manuscript and made some changes in the manuscript. These changes will not influence the content and framework of the paper. We appreciate for Editors/Reviewers’ warm work earnestly, and hope that the correction will meet with approval.

Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.

We would like to express our great appreciation to you and reviewers for comments on our paper. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you and best regards.

Yours sincerely,

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