

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Are data available on the role predictive of response, of the HBsAg pattern also in HBeAg negative patients?

### RESPONSE TO THE COMMENT

**HBeAg status did not influence the decline of HBsAg levels (p=0.787). Page 10 last paragraph.**

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript describes the results of a randomized trial aimed at comparing the efficacy of treatment of HDV infected patients with Peg-IFN alone or Peg-IFN + entecavir. The results are similar to those found with other nucleotide or nucleoside analogues, that is, no specific beneficial effects are associated with this type of combination therapies. Nevertheless, this is the first report that compares the use entecavir plus Peg-IFN and thus may be of interest for the readers. Specific comments - I believe Introduction could be more detailed in some aspects namely, as an example, on the results of HIDIT-I and HIDIT-II studies. Also, for instance, the results on the use of entecavir and IFN for treatment of HBV patients alone could also be more detailed. Globally, I suggest improving this section by giving more background information. - Figure 1 represents a flow diagram of the study and shall be referred in the main text, perhaps in the Methods section. - On page 9, second paragraph, I believe the authors wanted to refer to Figure 2 and not Figure 1 as in the text - Some spelling mistakes are present through the manuscript and need to be corrected.

### RESPONSE TO THE COMMENTS

- 1. Introduction expanded according to the reviewers comments. New paragraph in the Introduction Section, paragraph 3, page 5**
- 2. A new paragraph in the Discussion Section according to the reviewers**

**comments , paragraph 3, page 12**

**3. Three new references 13-15**

**4. Figures mentioned at appropriate places in the text**

**5. Spelling mistakes here found corrected**

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I read with great interest the paper by Abbas et al, regarding the role of combination of pegylated interferon alfa-2a with entecavir in the treatment of chronic hepatitis delta. This is a really interesting study investigating for the first time for benefits of the addition of ETV in pegylated-interferon in patients with CHD. The authors concluded that there is no benefit of the combined regimen compared to peg-ifn monotherapy and those findings are similar to previous studies where the combination of peg-ifn with other nucleoside analogues (adefovir, tenofovir) was tested. Minor revisions: -In the abstract, I suggest the authors to clarify which was the duration of the follow up period. -More information about the real time PCR used for the quantification of HCV RNA are needed (primers, master-mixes, cycling conditions, dynamic range of quantification). -Was the compliance of patients evaluated during follow up visits? -It would be more comprehensible for the readers if the authors add percentages next to number of patients for nominal variables. -In the discussion, the authors comment that "...it may be beneficial to extend treatment duration beyond 48 weeks..". There are paper on this issue such as Brichler, Clin Res Hepatol Gastroenterol 2013; Ouzan, J Hepatol 2013; Heller, APT 2015 and should be included in the bibliography and discussed in more details. -Manesis et al (Antivir Ther 2007) and Ouzan et al (J Hepatol 2013, letter) presented their results on the role of HBsAg in treatment monitoring. The addition of these data will enhance the information provided to the readers.

## RESPONSE TO THE COMMENTS



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1. Duration of follow up was already mentioned in the abstract
2. Percentages mentioned next to numbers
3. Brichler, Clin Res Hepatol Gastroenterol 2013 is just a case report. I have included 3 other references including the suggested by the reviewer (Ref. 13-15)