

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS manuscript NO: 26222

Title: HCV G1b infection decreases the number of small LDL particles

Reviewer's code: 02654889

Reviewer's country: Egypt

Science editor: Jing Yu

Date sent for review: 2016-04-06 08:41

Date reviewed: 2016-05-08 21:47

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The topic of the current study is very promising. The authors efficiently selected the aim of this research. Whereas, Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection was previously reported to alter the serum lipid and lipoprotein profiles. These changes may have a new role in the pathogenesis of HCV. This finding also may provide a new perspective on the association between HCV infection and atherosclerosis.

Response:

Thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript.

We sincerely appreciate your unprejudiced and favorable assessment.

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS manuscript NO: 26222

Title: HCV G1b infection decreases the number of small LDL particles

Reviewer's code: 03538213

Reviewer's country: Egypt

Science editor: Jing Yu

Date sent for review: 2016-04-06 08:41

Date reviewed: 2016-05-13 01:58

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript explores that the HCV G1b infection decreases the number of small LDL particles. It is well designed and has many good features and new findings. - The introduction provides a good, generalized background of the topic that quickly gives the reader summary of lipoproteins and HCV. However, to make the introduction more substantial, the author may wish to provide several references to substantiate the modulation of host lipid metabolism by hepatitis C virus. - Authors should clarify the method used in genotyping the HCV patients. - The method and results used to assure sustained virological response is not included in the manuscript; it's preferable to mention the method used to detect the viral load and its results. - Is there a correlation between the viral load of chronically infected patients with HCV G1b and the number of small LDL particles? - It is not obvious why the authors used Mann-Whitney U test for clinical data and lipoprotein data. Mann Whitney U test is a non-parametric test used in case of analysis of data that are not normally distributed. The authors did not state that their data are not normally distributed or highly variable. The authors used this test to analyze the statistical difference for clinical data and lipoprotein numbers, however clinical data are usually normally distributed (parametric) and analyzed by student t-test.

Response:

Thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript. We have addressed each of your points below.

As suggested, we added two references regarding the modulation of host lipid metabolism by HCV (references 7 and 8).

The HCV genotype was determined using the method described by Okamoto et al (1992), which we added as reference 16 to the revised manuscript and indicated in the revised MATERIALS AND METHODS.

We defined sustained virological response as undetectable serum HCV-RNA using the COBAS® Ampliprep/COBAS® TaqMan® HCV Test, v2.0 (Roche Molecular Diagnostics) at least 24 weeks after completing IFN-based antiviral therapy. We added the description in red above the revised MATERIALS AND METHODS.

As noted, the Mann-Whitney U test is a non-parametric test used to analyze data that are not normally distributed. The data in our study deviated considerably from a Gaussian distribution. Although some clinical data did not deviate strongly, other clinical data did not exhibit a normal distribution. Thus, we used the non-parametric test for all data. We added this description to the revised MATERIALS AND METHODS to clarify this point.