

37331-Response to Reviewers

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Comment 1: The authors should include and comment the results of the recent paper from Chu PS et al. published in Plos One (PLoS One 2017; 12: e0179096. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0179096).

Reply: We thank the reviewers for their useful comments that will improve our manuscript. The results of above mentioned paper have been included in revised manuscript and paper has been referenced.

Comment 2: In the section DAA and carcinogenesis: Review of existing evidence/ data, the authors should address two important questions: A. Is HCC recurrence accelerated by DAA therapy? B. Do recurrent HCCs present a more aggressive pattern? Regarding these questions, the mean/median time to HCC occurrence/recurrence should be reviewed and the results reported by Renzulli M et al in Eur Radiol 2018; 28: 506-513 should be commented.

Reply: We thank the reviewers for their useful comments. The content has been revised and comments are incorporated.

Comment 3: In the sub-section Geographical variation of incidence of HCC in DAA treated patients, a word of caution should be added regarding the significance of Waziry and others' meta-analysis: the extreme heterogeneity of the analyzed studies let any conclusion of these meta-analysis without strong support. In addition, similar heterogeneity concerns exist about the significance of the comparisons between DAA treated and IFN-treated patients, due to the baseline differences between the two populations.

Reply: We thank the reviewers for their useful comments. The comments are well considered and We have modified the manuscript according to reviewer suggestion.

Comment 4: The final sentence of the paper could be emended with the addition of a word of caution in treating with DAA those patients who received a recent treatment for HCC. Some important Centers in Europe and US have been delaying antiviral treatment for 6 months or more after recent treatment for HCC in these patients.

Reply: We thank the reviewers for their useful comments. The comments are well considered. We have modified the manuscript according to reviewer suggestion.

Editors comments:

Reply: We thank the editor for their useful comments. All comments are well considered, and We have modified the manuscript according to the suggestion.