

### **Specific Comments To Authors**

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is a potentially curative tumor if detected early. Biological markers for HCC, play an important role in the process of screening, detection and prognosis. Current markers are insufficient in the aforementioned, and therefore the detection and evaluation of new markers is of paramount importance. The study by Yamashita et al. investigates the diagnostic value of serum preneoplastic antigen (PNA) for HCC in HCV patients. It is a well designed study with a control arm and three HCV arms (hepatitis, cirrhosis and HCC). The results indicate that it can be a useful marker for HCC, especially in a specific subset of HCC patients. The manuscript is well-prepared, information is clearly and concisely described and discussed in good English. I would suggest omitting comments from the Results; comments, explanations and speculations should be reserved for the Discussion.

### **AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**

Thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript and for the positive overall evaluation of our study and findings.

As requested, we have revised the Results section to avoid unnecessary explanations and speculations and have moved these sentences to the Discussion section.