

Respond to Reviewers' comments

Reviewer No 1: Thank you very much for the time you spent to review our work and for your very helpful constructive criticism. All the comments were carefully studied and the manuscript was accordingly reviewed.

Comment 1: in the Introduction section the phrase "Although it has been ... targeting and efficacy" was deleted.

Comment 2: in the Introduction section the phrase "Evidence regarding ... remains conflicting" was also deleted with respect to Reviewer 1 comments. Instead of the deleted text, a new small text was added referring to the infections where ribavirin treatment is established including HCV for which the 3 references suggested by the Reviewer were cited, HEV, RSV, and some of the viral hemorrhagic fever viruses adding one new citation for each illness. In total, 6 new references were added. This small new text is written with red font colour and responds to reviewer's comment 2, to clarify the diseases where ribavirin use is established instead of conflicting.

Comment 3: in RBV clinical pharmacology section, all the references that were missing from the text and were only cited in Tables 1a and 1b were added in the manuscript with respect to Reviewer's comments.

As a result of the 6 new references added in the revised manuscript according to Reviewer's 1 comments, the whole text citations were renumbered as well as all Table's citation numbers.

Thank you again for your time and help.

Sincerely,

George D Liatsos

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