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Reviewer's code: 03478959

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The paper presents a large scientific contribution to the diagnosis of hepatitis C. A new strategy to detect single point mutations by real-time PCR was presented. This technology can be implemented in routine clinical laboratories to be a technique of low-cost and sensitive. The paper is well written. The technique is a good adaptation of current RT-PCR protocols with detect Q80K which can be easily adapted to other parts of the HCV genome and perhaps other viral types.

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

We really appreciate the highly positive comments provided by both reviewers. No queries or changes have been proposed.

All the best

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Francisco Rodriguez-Frias', written on a white background with faint horizontal lines.

Francisco Rodriguez-Frias