

JOURNAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

Manuscript NO: 33960

Title: Real-world efficacy of daclatasvir and asunaprevir with respect to resistance-associated substitutions

Journal Editor-in-Chief (Associate Editor): Claus-Thomas Bock

Country: Germany

Editorial Director: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2017-06-21

Date reviewed: 2017-06-21

ACADEMIC CONTENT EVALUATION	LANGUAGE QUALITY EVALUATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

JOURNAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (ASSOCIATE EDITOR) COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dr. Fujii and colleagues have presented an interesting observational study in which the aimed to examine the efficacy of daclatasvir and asunaprevir with Respect to Resistance-Associated Substitutions. The authors presented a revised version of their study. However, there are still minor comments which should be addressed. 1. The comment of reviewer 1 on "serum markers of liver fibrosis should ameliorate after treatment, contemporary to biochemical and virological markers; Authors should give data on this topic" has been answered by the authors in the Discussion section and not in the Results section. In my opinion it makes more sense to present the data in the Results. 2.

The comment of reviewer 2 "...why only analyze the correlation between SVR12 and NS5A RASs. It's better to add the correlation analysis between SVR12 and NS3 RASs" has been answered by the authors in the rebuttal letter; however, no statement is made in the revised manuscript. Please add some information in the Discussion section. Except to the above mentioned comments I have no additional and specific comment to the revised version of the manuscript. The language meets the requirements for publication.

Author's reply

We thank the reviewer for the useful comment.

We inserted the sentence "We compared the Fibrosis-4 (FIB-4) index[11] at baseline and at 12 weeks after the end of treatment. Baseline FIB-4 index was 4.14 and it remarkably decreased to 3.78 at 12 weeks after the end of treatment in the SVR12 group ($P<0.001$). Meanwhile, baseline FIB-4 index was 3.84 and it slightly decreased to 3.57 in the non-SVR12 group ($P=0.03$) FIB-4 index was more markedly reduced in the SVR12 group." to the RESULT section (page 16 line 16, revised version). We inserted the sentence "The eradication of HCV can ameliorate liver inflammation as well as liver fibrosis[21]. We calculated the values of FIB4 index both at baseline and after SVR12. We found that FIB-4 index was more markedly reduced in the SVR12 group. This data indicate that liver fibrosis is improved in SVR12 group in the future" to the DISCUSSION section (page 22 line 6, revised version). We inserted the sentences "We did not check the RASs in NS3 for two reasons. One reason is that naturally occurring NS3 RASs are reported to be rare[14,15]. Another reason is that the guideline for the treatment of hepatitis C edited by the Japan Society of Hepatology do not recommend to check NS3 RASs, but recommend to check NS5A RASs before starting DAC/ASV treatment." in the DISCUSSION section (page 21 line 7, revised version). We cited the paper by Bartels et al (Bartels DJ, Sullivan JC, Zhang EZ, Tigges AM, Dorrian JL, De Meyer S, Takemoto D, Dondero E, Kwong AD, Picchio G, Kieffer TL. Hepatitis C virus variants with decreased sensitivity to direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) were rarely observed in DAA-naïve patients prior to treatment. *J Virol* 2013; 87: 1544-1553 [PMID: 23152524 PMCID: 3554180 DOI: JVI.02294-12 [pii] 10.1128/JVI.02294-12]) and Suzuki et al (Suzuki F, Sezaki H, Akuta N, Suzuki Y, Seko Y, Kawamura Y, Hosaka T, Kobayashi M, Saito S, Arase Y, Ikeda K, Mineta R, Watahiki S, Miyakawa Y, Kumada H. Prevalence of hepatitis C virus variants resistant to NS3 protease inhibitors or the NS5A inhibitor (BMS-790052) in hepatitis patients with genotype 1b. *J Clin Virol* 2012; 54: 352-354 [PMID: 22658798 DOI: S1386-6532(12)00178-3 [pii] 10.1016/j.jcv.2012.04.024]).

As a result, citation number were changed.

We hope the response to the Editor-In-Chief's comments are satisfactory and the revised manuscript is acceptable for publication.