REVISOR ID: 02544416

I read with great interest manuscript entitled " High prevalence of occult hepatitis C infection in predialysis patients". All parts of the manuscript are concisely and coherently organized and presented, give all necessary information and effortlessly written. The tables support the results. Some corrections should be done:

1) **The study group should be divided according to the ethnicity and not skin color •**

Thank you for your observation. In Brazil there are many mixed raced persons. We corrected it.

2) **Can you fulfill your data with results of LFTs**

Albumin, gamma glutamyl transferase and bilirubin were not different between the two groups. We have added in the results. Thank you.

3) **The list of references should be revised according to the guidelines of the journal (for example reference 19???)**

We corrected reference 19 and adjusted the others. Thank you.

4) **It is very kind to mention cooperation and kindness of patients, but redundant**

Thank you, we corrected it.

REVISOR ID: 00504077

1) **your research is useful and good**

Thank you very much.

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The manuscript by Sette et al, addresses an important and probably still neglected problem - the prevalence of occult HCV infection in predialysis patients. Introduction is concise, updated and to the point. Research seems to have been conducted with care and the authors are aware of the main limitations of the study. The manuscript is also well written with minor language polishing needed, mainly due to typos.

1) **In the results section, I recommend the inclusion of references for the primers used in the amplification reactions as well as the indication of the targeted regions in the genome, and the size of the expected amplicon.**
    a. Thank you for all the recommendations.
    b. All of the positive samples were positive for both primers.

c. The size of the expected amplicon was >250bp.

2) **Moreover, description of the first cDNA reaction synthesis prior to amplification needs to be included.**
   a. We included this information in the methods, thank you.
   b. The cDNA synthesis was performed with random primers having as template RNA strands extracted from peripheral blood mononuclear cells and / or ultracentrifuged serum, using the enzyme M-MVL reverse transciptase (Invitrogen ™), following the manufacturer's specifications

3) **A figure depicting typical results, including positive and negative controls would be also appreciated.**

   a. The figure was added to the paper. Thank you!