

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



December 12, 2012

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 6824-review.docx).

Title: When to stop nucleos(t)ide analogues treatment?: Durability of antiviral response

Author: Wonseok Kang, Jun Yong Park

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 6824

Reviewer 02438768 liked the review. This reviewer suggested addressing a couple of issues.

1. Whether nucleos(t)ide analogues (NAs) treatment should be continued or stopped under certain condition, i.e. renal insufficiency, pregnancy or immunosuppression, is an important issue in the clinical practice. However, since we are focusing on the areas of uncertainty in deciding the best timing to stop NAs treatment in the context of durability of off-treatment antiviral response, we will discuss the suggested issue in another review article in the near future.

2. Emergence of drug resistance is also an important issue when treating chronic hepatitis B patients with NAs. In such cases, recent studies recommend rescue therapy with potent NAs with high genetic barrier. For example, tenofovir, a recently introduced nucleotide analogue, is effective in multi-drug resistance cases and therefore is recommended for rescue therapy. Again, since we are focusing on stopping plans for NA treatment in the context of durability of off-treatment antiviral response, we will discuss the suggested topic – NAs treatment in patients with drug resistance – in another review article.

Again, thank you for the thoughtful comments on the manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jun Yong Park'.

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