

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

August 25, 2012

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 9154-revised.doc).

Title: Risk factors analysis for de novo hepatitis B infection in pediatric living donor liver transplantation

Author: Wei Rao, Man Xie, Tao Yang, Jian-jun Zhang, Wei Gao, Yong-lin Deng, Hong Zheng, Cheng Pan, Yi-he Liu, Zhong-yang Shen

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9154

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) The definition of de novo HBV infection after liver transplantation should be clearly stated in the manuscript in Introduction or Patients and Methods Section.

Answer: The manuscript has been revised according to the suggestion of the reviewer.

(2) In the Immunosuppression section, do the authors change, or decrease the immunosuppressant if a recipient seems to have high risk of de novo HBV infection? How did they manage ABO-incompatible liver transplant, if it is included in this study? Furthermore, the authors need to describe if they adopted any prophylactic protocol for recipients with grafts from HBc Ab positive donors.

Answer: The immunosuppressant was same in this enrolled group which was based on tacrolimus. And no prophylactic protocol was adopted during this study.

(3) In the quantification of intrahepatic HBV DNA, the exact timing and the way of sampling liver tissue needs to be stated. I guess the donor tissue was taken at the time of the donation. I wonder if the biopsy was taken from the recipients when de novo HBV infection was suspected.

Answer: The manuscript has been revised according to the suggestion. And the donor tissue was taken at the time of the donation while not when the de novo HBV infection was suspected.

(4) In the Follow up section, there is no comment about their strategy for the prophylaxis and treatment of de novo HBV infection, such as vaccination, immunoglobulin, or Lamivudine.

Answer: No prophylactic protocol was adopted during this study, however, after Sep 2012, all of the recipient who received the HBcAb(+) donor will receive HBIG during the anhepatic phase, and receive LAM immediately after liver transplant, and vaccination 6 months after liver transplant.

(5) The authors did not comment much on a case who developed fatal hepatic failure which the authors believe was due to de novo HBV infection.

Answer: The case who died of fulminant hepatic failure was treated by acyclovir and entecavir after de novo HBV was diagnosis, while she didn't get any coexistence of other hepatitis, such as HepC.

(6) The authors made a large effort to quantify the intrahepatic HBV DNA, but unfortunately the amounts were not analyzed as one of the possible risk factor of de novo HBV infection, but only positivity and negativity were considered. Statistical analysis is probably not the best it could be. Logistic regression may be performed using all the possible factors shown as independent variables

and de novo HBV infection (yes/no) as dependent variable. I would recommend a statistical consultation. If authors want to discuss about the protective effect of anti-HBs or HBc Ab, their titers needs to be included in the analysis.

Answer: For the study being a limited sample and retrospectively one, some data was missing which led to do the *t* tests and Chi-square test.

(7) This paper has some potential interest for the readers of the Journal, but the authors need to cite in the reference some recent similar work done in adult counterpart.

Answer: The manuscript has been revised according to the suggestion.

(8) The major concern is that a multivariate analysis was not performed. Considering the small sample size, this probably will not be possible. However, and for this reason, some statements should be done more cautiously in the text: ? ? ?

Answer: The manuscript has been revised according to the suggestion.

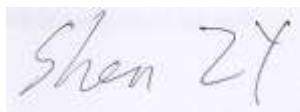
(9) I suggest deleting the term “analysis” from the Title. ? Abstract.

Answer: The manuscript has been revised according to the suggestion.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Shen ZY', on a light blue background.

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