

Essen, 10th October 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the review article which we were invited to contribute to your *World Journal of Hepatology (WJH)* 6th Anniversary Special Issues (6): Liver Transplantation.

Title: Hepatitis C virus reinfection after liver transplant: new chances and new challenges in the era of direct-acting antiviral agents

Authors: Kerstin Herzer, Guido Gerken

Name of Journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 13735

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of the reviewers. The requested changes were: supplementation with references and english editing. Both concerns have been addressed but do not mean changes which make any highlighting appropriate. Thus, we hope for the understanding of the editor that the revised manuscript does not contain any underlined passages.

Unfortunately, we do not have access to CrossRef. We supplemented some passages with references but to our estimation, most passages which are highlighted in your CrossRef report represent general wordings in terms of terminology which is repetitively used in the field to express certain facts, which are used by diverse authors and which may not be necessary to be referenced. Nevertheless, we tried to eliminate unclear passages and hope that you agree with the result.

Please find a point-by-point response to the reviewers comments below:

Reviewer 1: The theme treatment of hepatitis C post liver transplantation is very relevant. The major problem of the manuscript is that the statements, in most cases, are not referenced. This should be corrected. With didactic purposes, it would be interesting to build a table containing the different therapeutic regimens for post transplant, with respective rates of SVR and its references. Depending on the availability of new drugs, it would be interesting to suggest the best treatment regimens in different clinical situations. The article needs grammar review.

Answer: *We supplemented 16 references in order to address the concern of the reviewer.*

A table with different therapeutic regimens and outcomes will be interesting, but the limitation is the lack of sufficient trial data at this point. The aim of our review is therefore rather to concentrated on discussing the chances and expectations and also the limitations for LT patients while we are still awaiting data on the new therapies for the postLt situation, at that stage.

Unfortunately there are no consistent guidelines so far for treatment recommendations of LT patients, these are expected for next year.

Reviewer 2: Hepatitis C virus is a major public health problem. HCV-related end-stage liver disease is still one of major indication for liver transplantation in Western countries. Recurrence of HCV infection following liver transplantation is experienced by the majority of patients and can go along with a significantly accelerated graft cirrhosis. To treat or prevent post-transplant HCV recurrence is very important. In this review, Kerstin Herzer and Guido Gerken review the current progress in the issue. Work is written excellently. I think this paper has a high priority for publication in WJH.

Answer: *We thank the reviewer for his encouraging comment.*

Reviewer 3: This is a reasonably well written manuscript describing the excitement and challenges in managing Post LT HCV in the era of new IFN free molecules. Major comment The summary needs to be shortened. Language will need correction prior to publishing Minor comments The authors should tabulate the reported and ongoing trials with the new drugs

Answer: *The summary was substantially shortened and the manuscript was thoroughly edited by a native speaker, in order to address the concern of the reviewer.*

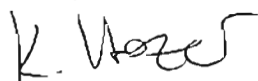
The ongoing trials are now listed as headpoints.

Reviewer 4: The importance of the manuscript was fitting the scope of the journal.

Answer: *We thank the reviewer for his encouraging comment.*

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

Sincerely yours



Kerstin Herzer, MD, Associate Professor
Liver Transplantation Unit
University Hospital Essen
Germany