

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 17396

Title: Effectiveness and safety of first-generation protease inhibitors in clinical practice: HCV patients with advanced fibrosis

Reviewer's code: 03252209

Reviewer's country: Australia

Science editor: Jing Yu

Date sent for review: 2015-03-05 15:03

Date reviewed: 2015-03-30 22:44

| CLASSIFICATION | LANGUAGE EVALUATION | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT | CONCLUSION |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | Google Search: | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected | BPG Search: | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | |

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This multicentre study included 1057 chronic hepatitis C patients who underwent anti-HCV treatment with BOC or TVR in combination with pegylated interferon and ribavirin. This study reported the efficacy and safety of the first generation protease inhibitors in a real clinical practice in Spain. There are several minor concerns with the study. 1. The efficacy and safety of boceprevir and telaprevir was well validated in previous studies. Limited new evidence was provided in this study. 2. The fibrosis severity was determined by FibroScan which would lead to inaccuracy. Were any other measures of fibrosis severity used and what number of patients did not have a validated FibroScan result? Was there an analysis of the FibroScan result rather than the fibrosis stage? 3. More detailed information will be needed about the patient inclusion/exclusion criteria and treatment protocol. Did both BOC and TVR groups have a lead in period with Peg/rib?

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 17396

Title: Effectiveness and safety of first-generation protease inhibitors in clinical practice: HCV patients with advanced fibrosis

Reviewer's code: 02462085

Reviewer's country: Germany

Science editor: Jing Yu

Date sent for review: 2015-03-05 15:03

Date reviewed: 2015-03-21 06:52

| CLASSIFICATION | LANGUAGE EVALUATION | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT | CONCLUSION |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | Google Search: | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision |
| | | BPG Search: | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | |

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Topic: The topic of the manuscript is interesting and the manuscript is well structured and well written. Although novel compounds and all oral interferon-free treatment regimens for chronic hepatitis C are available in some wealthy countries, TVR and BOC containing treatment regimens are still widely used in regions with more limited resources. Therefore, real-world data on the safety and effectiveness of regimens containing these first-generation protease inhibitors are relevant. **Methods:** The methodological approach is sound; an impressively large cohort of well characterized patients has been included into the study. Nevertheless, the revised version of the manuscript has to provide full information on how the propensity score was calculated (i.e. which confounders/covariates have been chosen). The criteria for "failure to respond during the 4-week lead-in period" should be given in the revised version of the manuscript. **Results:** The number of patients who died during the study is very high. The manuscript states: "that in a single hospital there were five deaths, probably because the treatment was provided when the patients already presented a very advanced stage of liver cirrhosis". However, later the manuscript states that only



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one patient died of hepatic decompensation, a further three of severe infection - which may also be attributed to treating patients with very advanced cirrhosis - but still the reader is left with too much guessing concerning this important aspect. In particular, an effort should be made to clarify the cause of death in the four patients who died of a "nonspecific cause" and this information has to be added to the revised version of the manuscript. Discussion: The discussion is well done. References The references have to be checked: The manuscript title is missing in ref.5. The pivotal trials on TVR and BOC are only incompletely listed. The cut-off values for the Fibroscan have to be referenced. Minor issues: Abstract; results: The sentence: "The analysis by groups showed that only the TN patients treated with TVR by ITT" should be deleted. Instead, information on drop outs for safety reasons should be added. The paragraph on "RNA-HCV follow up" is somewhat unclear and should partially be revised (e.g. "following local practice" seems to contradict the information given shortly above).

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 17396

Title: Effectiveness and safety of first-generation protease inhibitors in clinical practice: HCV patients with advanced fibrosis

Reviewer's code: 02542077

Reviewer's country: Brazil

Science editor: Jing Yu

Date sent for review: 2015-03-05 15:03

Date reviewed: 2015-03-29 20:22

| CLASSIFICATION | LANGUAGE EVALUATION | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT | CONCLUSION |
|---|--|--|--|
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision |
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| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | |

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Comment: 1- Tables are not clear, could be changed.