

Dear Editor,

thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript entitled "Human pegivirus after transplant: is there an impact?". We are thankful for the reviewer's and editor's comments. All the changes are highlighted in red in the manuscript. Please find point-by-point response to the comments:

Comments by the Editors:

Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s);

We have uploaded the approved application document.

It is unacceptable to have more than 3 references from the same journal. To resolve this issue and move forward in the peer-review/publication process, the authors must revise the reference 1

This is a niche subject with a limited number of journals (transplantation medicine) especially several decades ago, therefore more than three papers were published in Transplantation. We would kindly ask to accept this exception as otherwise the whole concept of our manuscript would be lost. Thank you.

Company editor-in-chief:

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, the full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Transplantation, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors. Please authors are required to provide standard three-line tables, that is, only the top line, bottom line, and column line are displayed, while other table lines are hidden. The contents of each cell in the table should conform to the editing specifications, and the lines of each row or column of the table should be aligned. Do not use carriage returns or spaces to replace lines or vertical lines and do not segment cell content.

Thank you for all the comments. We have amended the table according to your suggestions.

Reviewer 1

Authors highlighted the uncertain role of pegivirus infection to outcomes of solid organ and haematopoietic stem cell transplantation yet it is prevalent among post-transplant populations presumably due to parenteral transmission through frequent transfusions with blood product, underlying immunocompromised status, co-infection with hepatitis C, and/or history of frequent haemodialysis. This article summarizes recent publications addressing the role of pegivirus infection to outcomes of different types of transplant (liver, kidney, heart and haematopoietic stem cells). It also addresses the inconclusiveness of existing studies and suggests large-scale prospective studies to be performed. This article provides general insights to readers and is worth publishing as an opinion review. On the other hand, if authors aim for a systematic review or meta-analysis on this topic, a more robust methodology and statistical analyses have to be employed.

Thank you for your kind comments. We opted for the opinion review.

Reviewer #2:

1. It should be more clearly stated: its history, category etc.

We thank you for all of your comments. The introduction has been revised accordingly, addressing the category of Pegiviruses and their history.

2. pegiviruses as proxies in immunosuppression monitoring should be more addressed

The part addressing the use of pegiviruses as possible proxies in immunosuppression monitoring has been rewritten and broadened.

3. Table should be more concise

The table has been revised to be more informational and to provide more concise data.

4. A few grammar errors are found

A thorough grammar and spell check has been performed.

We thank the reviewers for recognizing the presented manuscript as a good effort and for the valuable and constructive comments, which made us think more critically about the presentation of our work.

We hope that we have improved the consistency, clarity, and interpretation of data in our manuscript and that the revised manuscript will meet the requirements and be suitable for publication in the World Journal of Transplantation.

Thank you again for the privilege of submitting our work to your Journal.

Sincerely,

Anna Mrzljak, MD, PhD, FEBGH