

ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Ms: 2030

Title: Serum proteomic in chronic hepatitis B patients treated with PEG-interferon alfa-2b

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
[] Grade A (Excellent)	[] Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	[] Accept
[Y] Grade B (Very good)	[Y] Grade B: minor language polishing	[] Existed	[] High priority for publication
[] Grade C (Good)	[] Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	[] No records	[] Rejection
[] Grade D (Fair)	[] Grade D: rejected	[] Existed	[Y] Minor revision
[] Grade E (Poor)		[] No records	[] Major revision

COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS:

The manuscript of Kuakarn S et al performed a proteomic study in patients with chronic hepatitis B (CHB) to found differential serum expression of proteins before and after PEG- IFN-alfa2b treatment. The authors found alpha-2-HS-glycoprotein and complement component C3c as potential serum biomarkers in predicting the response to this treatment. This work is interesting since its results suggested 2 potential biomarkers as predictors of response to PEG-IFN-alfa2b therapy in CHB. Then, its contributions may be valuable to avoid side effects of this therapy in non-reponder patients providing cost-benefit advantages. However, this work should be validated by including more number of patients.

Specific comments: -The authors did not discuss the significant difference in the age of virological reponder and non-responder patients (Table 1, $p < 0.047$). Since the age of patients was different between virological reporders and non-responders, and the age of patients may influence the response to the treatment, this point should be discussed. -In results, page 10, second paragraph: the authors state that the age virological responders and non-responders patients is not significantly different; however, Table 2 showed a significant difference with $p < 0.023$. -In results, page 10, last paragraph: "At the end of treatment.." but in Material and Methods, in Serum samples, say: "All patients received PEG-Interferon alfa-2b (...)..... for 48 weeks ..." Then, 24 weeks is not end of treatment. -After 24 weeks of treatment, why were included only 6 patients (3 patients per group of) for comparison between virological reporders and non-responders? -Table 5 should be not divided in sustained virological



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responders and non-responders, instead it should be presented as a single table. -Since albumin was depleted from the serum(Figure 1), why it is included in the analysis in Tables 3 and 5? -Table 5, why in sustained virological responders, the protein CD5 antigen-like precursor is considered absent at baseline when Table 3 and Figure 1C showed relative intensity? -Page 11, last paragraph, "...suppress the expression of the low abundant proteins.." I suggest change by "suppress the detection of the low abundant proteins" -Reference, -include in reference 21, the journal name, volumen and pages, and year of publicacion. -References, include year of publication of references 29-32. -Please review the misspellings.