

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 13381

Title: Natural interferon-beta treatment for patients with chronic hepatitis C in Japan

Reviewer's code: 00751081

Reviewer's country: Japan

Science editor: Xue-Mei Gong

Date sent for review: 2014-08-22 08:23

Date reviewed: 2014-09-01 13:10

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	PubMed Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor	language polishing	<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

The reviewer felt that this review paper would be of interest to the readers of the journal and be acceptable after appropriate revisions as suggested below. The authors should include the term "in Japan" in the title of the paper and of Table 1. This paper should be carefully edited for proper English grammar.

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 13381

Title: Natural interferon-beta treatment for patients with chronic hepatitis C in Japan

Reviewer's code: 02860712

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Xue-Mei Gong

Date sent for review: 2014-08-22 08:23

Date reviewed: 2014-10-28 01:57

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	PubMed 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input 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 type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The key message of this review is that β interferon represents a valid option in elderly patients with HCV chronic infection and in difficult patients (i.e. in patients with mental disorders and in those with low platelet counts). In my opinion, this conclusion is supported by weak clinical data. In patients with acute HCV related hepatitis, the available data are contradictory (see ref # 29 and #32). None of the studies regarding patients with chronic HCV related hepatitis are prospective controlled trials. Katamura (ref # 37) administered β interferon to 19 patients. Among the 11 with HCV G1, 7 were re-treated patients, and in 4 of 7 a transient virological response had been observed during the first cycle. By the end of the second cycle of therapy, a sustained virological response was observed in 3 cases. The study of Arase (ref #38) is retrospective, and the 40 patients treated with β interferon were recruited over a period ranging from December 2004 to May 2008. The recent study by Nomura (ref #48) is also a retrospective, non randomized trial. In addition, it is not stated, in this study, the number of drop-outs [(Recruited to treatment with β interferon and ribavirin n=66; side effect-related treatment discontinuation n=15; patients available for final analysis n= 36: (according to these figures, 15 additional patients were lost during the study)]. In addition,



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in the group of patients treated with PEG-IFN and RIBA, the number of patients who discontinued the treatment for adverse effects is $42/66 = 63\%$. This figure exceeds the corresponding rate of withdrawals reported in previous studies.

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 13381

Title: Natural interferon-beta treatment for patients with chronic hepatitis C in Japan

Reviewer's code: 02860871

Reviewer's country: Netherlands

Science editor: Xue-Mei Gong

Date sent for review: 2014-08-22 08:23

Date reviewed: 2014-12-10 00:47

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	PubMed 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input 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

This review entitled "Natural interferon- β treatment for patients with chronic hepatitis C" by "Sasaki R et al is interesting in its field. The authors discussed about natural interferon- β treatment for patients with chronic hepatitis C in Japan. Here some comments : 1. The author would better discuss more about recent chronic hepatitis C treatment and interferon therapy to have a broader insight of what is happening there. 2. Author should discuss the difference between the natural interferon beta and the artificial one. 3. Since chronic HCV might causes HCC and it is still controversy whether beta interferon therapy can improve the prognosis for HCC (Am J Clin Oncol. 1995 Aug;18(4):287-92), author should also provide discussion in separate sub titles about the natural interferon beta and its risk for HCC 4. When citing literature about other treatment inhibit hepatitis C, emphasize the analytical synthesis of the literatures, not only mentioning the increasing SVR or who did what. Minor points : a) When mentioning natural interferon beta, authors often mentioned only interferon beta. It should be clearly stated whether the interferon beta is natural or not, for instance by mentioning its abbreviation (N-IFN- β or natural IFN- β). b) The arrangement for subtitles is a bit messy. The author might use sub titles or sub sub-titles if needed. c) In page 5, some



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sentences are written in different font. Rephrase sentences from other literature and not just copy and paste. d) In page 9, author should first mention the reasonable of the study and not jump to the figure explanation

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 13381

Title: Natural interferon-beta treatment for patients with chronic hepatitis C in Japan

Reviewer's code: 02841615

Reviewer's country: China

Science editor: Xue-Mei Gong

Date sent for review: 2014-08-22 08:23

Date reviewed: 2014-12-08 10:48

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	PubMed Search:	<input checked="" 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"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

no

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 13381

Title: Natural interferon-beta treatment for patients with chronic hepatitis C in Japan

Reviewer's code: 02942455

Reviewer's country: Australia

Science editor: Xue-Mei Gong

Date sent for review: 2014-08-22 08:23

Date reviewed: 2014-12-08 22:49

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	PubMed Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> [Y] 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"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> [] Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> 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"/> [Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Good review, would benefit from a little more detail regarding any data for direct comparisons between pegIFNalpha and natural interferons. Also, a more critical approach to summarising the data would be good. Specific changes: 1. In abstract and throughout the article, interferon is followed by a symbol and it is not clear what this is! I presume it is interferon beta? 2."We should always have additional treatments for HCV" (page 4, 2nd paragraph- change this sentence, perhaps outlining why alternatives are required. 3. Age of diagnosis of HCC would not necessarily be increasing just because the age of the population is increasing- this needs refining and explanation as to why the age of HCC diagnosis is increasing. 4. Page 5- change "becoming chronic" to "developing chronic infection" 5. Under the "Natural interferon for difficult to treat patients"- perhaps elaborate on the findings of the Montalto et al paper. have there been any direct comparisons between peg IFN and natural interferon? highlight perhaps the differences in side effects more clearly.