

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 25877

Title: Anti-hepatitis C virus potency of a new autophagy inhibitor using human liver slices model

Reviewer's code: 00502973

Reviewer's country: China

Science editor: Fang-Fang Ji

Date sent for review: 2016-04-06 14:27

Date reviewed: 2016-04-17 21:55

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 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 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 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

In the current submission, Lagaye et al reported the anti-HCV effect of a new autophagy inhibitor GNS-396. This would be helpful to develop new medicine for anti-HCV with new mechanism. However, concerns existed. And the manuscript could not be accepted before the concerns being addressed. Major concern: As the development of new DAA, more powerful anti-HCV drugs are available at present. The author compared the EC50 of GNS-396 with some anti-HCV drugs. However, the comparison with new DAAs, e.g. Sofosbuvir were not present. This should be addressed. Minor concerns: 1. In the 2nd paragraph of the Introduction: "Over the past few years, other direct acting antivirals (DAAs) were developed[10-14] as second generation of PI with higher antiviral potency, HCV NS5A replication complex inhibitors and nucleotide analogue HCV NS5B polymerase inhibitors[13] as well host-targeted indirect antivirals like cyclophilin inhibitors[15] and lambda interferon[15]." change to "Over the past few years, other direct acting antivirals (DAAs) were developed[10-14] as second generation of PI with higher antiviral potency, HCV NS5A replication complex inhibitors and nucleotide analogue HCV NS5B polymerase inhibitors[13] as well

as host-targeted indirect antivirals like cyclophilin inhibitors[15] and lambda interferon[15].” 2. Under the title “Liver slices preparation, culture and infection”: “Cell number for tissue slices was estimated at $\sim 2.7 \times 10^6$ cells per slice based on a 14-cell thick slice (cell diameter $\sim 25\mu\text{m}$)[41].” change to “Cell number for tissue slices was estimated at $\sim 2.7 \times 10^6$ cells per slice based on a 14-cell thick slice (cell diameter $\sim 25\mu\text{m}$)[41].” Also in this paragraph, “One day post-culture in twelve-transwell plates, human primary liver slices were inoculated with HCV Con1/C3 at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) equal to 0.1 at 37°C in the same culture conditions than described above, for overnight.” change to “One day post-culture in twelve-transwell plates, human primary liver slices were inoculated with HCV Con1/C3 at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) equal to 0.1 at 37°C in the same culture conditions as described above, for overnight.” 3. The 2nd paragraph under the title “Quantification of HCV strands RNA by real-time quantitative Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (qRT-PCR)”: “Reverse transcription was performed using primers described previously located in the 5’ NCR region of HCV genome, tag-RC1 (5’-GGC CGT CAT GGT GGC GAA TAA GTC TAG CCA TGG CGT TAG TA-3’)[47]” I suppose this sequence comprises of 2 primers as it was used as 2 primers later (5’-GGC CGT CAT GGTGGC GAA TAA-3’, . 5’-GTC TAG CCA TGG CGT TAG TA-3’). 4. Under the title “Western blotting”: “Horseradish peroxidase-conjugated anti-mouse IgG (GeHealthCare Life Sciences) taken 1:50000 were used as secondary antibodies.” change to “ Horseradish peroxidase-conjugated anti-mouse IgG (GeHealthCare Life Sciences) at the dilution of 1:50000 were used as secondary antibodies.” 5. The 1st paragraph of the Discussion: “2. GNS-396 was a potent autophagy inhibitor, acting as “lysosomotropic agent” which was able to inhibit HCV replication in primary human adult HCVcc infected liver slices culture.” This is the 2nd point. The 1st point was missing or not labeled. 6. The 2nd paragraph of the Discussion: “Since the permissive cell lines are transformed and poorly differentiated.” This sentence was incomplete. 7. The last paragraph of the Discussion: “Moreover, the infection of human liver slices culture with primary viral isolates from patients that we succeed to establish[41], should allow highlighting the potential early emergence of drug resistant viral variants during the anti-viral treatments.” change to “Moreover, the infection of human liver slices culture with primary viral isolates from patients that we succeed to establish[41], should allow highlighting the potential of early emergence of drug resistant viral variants during the anti-viral tr

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Title: Anti-hepatitis C virus potency of a new autophagy inhibitor using human liver slices model

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

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript is clear and comprehensive. I believe there are no changes or modifications to do