

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 28671

Title: Clinical usefulness of ursodeoxycholic acid for Japanese patients with autoimmune hepatitis

Reviewer's code: 01801241

Reviewer's country: Spain

Science editor: Shui Qiu

Date sent for review: 2016-07-14 15:26

Date reviewed: 2016-07-14 19:36

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
<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 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

I have read the manuscript and I think that it is an interesting article. Strengths: number of patients 136; all biopsied; all with a diagnosis of probable AIH. The conclusion of an independent predictive value for ALT ≤ 200 is a very interesting cut off point for future prospective studies to confirm these retrospective results. Weaknesses: retrospective study; the results suggest the utility but this must be confirmed in prospective studies. They do not explain why a group of patients (what clinical characteristics) only received UDCA. Why they use a dosage of 600 mg/d, and not 15 mg/kg/day as in PBC?. Abstract: conclusion-the results suggest that..this must be confirmed in a prospective study. introduction: dosage 600 mg/day. Why? a dosage of 15 mg/kg/day as in PBC is not recommended?? Methods: explain, if known, why the 48 patients are included in the U1 group, only UDCA. Less severe clinical cases for the clinicians? Why?? treatment: explain why 600mg dosage. discussion: UDCA should be considered... better may be? can be?. Future studies...prospective studies..

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Hepatology

ESPS manuscript NO: 28671

Title: Clinical usefulness of ursodeoxycholic acid for Japanese patients with autoimmune hepatitis

Reviewer's code: 02861055

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Shui Qiu

Date sent for review: 2016-07-14 15:26

Date reviewed: 2016-07-19 20:24

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

The submitted manuscript by Torisu et al is a retrospective evaluation of UDCA treatment in patients affected by autoimmune hepatitis (AIH). The Authors included 136 patients from a single University Hospital with at least a probable diagnosis of AIH and found that 71% of patients treated with UDCA achieved a remission of the disease. Notably, ALT levels of 200 IU/l or lower were associated with response to UDCA monotherapy. The results of the study are of interest. A number of issues are listed below. 1) The Authors should clarify which patients were treated with UDCA. This is particularly relevant since the UDCA group and the prednisolone group differ for many variables (see table 1). 2) The Authors should specify if cases of AIH-primary biliary cholangitis and AIH-primary sclerosing cholangitis variants have been ruled out. Inclusion of these patients could be a possible explanation of UDCA efficacy. Data on liver histology and AMA should be included. 3) The main limitation of the study is that the Authors do not show an appropriate control group for the UDCA-treated patients. The latter appears to be a group of patients with a mild disease for which indication for standard treatment is currently uncertain. This aspect should be better discussed by the



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Authors. 4) Duration of follow-up should be included. 5) Data about the efficacy of prednisolone treatment in inducing remission should also be added.