

< RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS' COMMENTS >

Name of journal: *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

Manuscript NO: 83052

Title: The optimal laboratory testing protocol for patients with acne taking oral isotretinoin

Reviewer #1:

Comment 1 : This article is a good piece of work, which may be a useful source of knowledge for dermatologists and all medical practitioners who in their practice meet problems of supplementation in acne. The article is good designed and written and statistical analysis is described in detail, clearly and cogently. For these reasons, I recommend this article for publication.

Answer : Thank you for your kind comments.

We are very pleased to present our findings to BPG. We hope that our article will be helpful to other dermatologists and medical practitioners. Thank you again.

Reviewer #2:

Comment 2 : The article was well written but it is a subject studied and published many times.

Answer : Thank you very much for accepting our article.

It is true that many studies like the purpose of this article have been published, but I think that additional studies should continue to be published in that there is no unified guideline yet. Also, our article has a great strength in that it presents a lab monitoring plan for patients taking isotretinoin in consideration of the health insurance status in Korea for the first time.

Thank you again for your opinion.

Reviewer #3:

Comment 3 : The article is original, the hypothesis of the study is not new. It is well written and important to decrease unnecessary investigation. The conclusion is well written and appropriately summarizes the study. The study helps to clarify controversy about lab monitoring for patients on isotretinoin. Still there is a lot of controversy about the frequency of lab monitoring for patients on isotretinoin.

the limitation is the small number of patient. needs further studies on larger sample. however, the result and suggestion may reassure both the physician and patients about the need for strict monitoring

Answer : Thank you for your comments, and our authors also believe that it is very important to present the most efficient lab monitoring guidelines in consideration of each country's financial status and patient convenience.

We are very sorry about the big limitation of the small number of samples in our article. To supplement this, we are planning an additional prospective study. It is hoped that through a well-planned study design, more patients can be able to be included in the studies.

We very much agree with you and thank you again for your thoughtful review.

Reviewer #4:

Comment 4 : This manuscript investigated the hematological monitoring tests and intervals for patients taking isotretinoin for acne at a single institution in Korea. The purpose was to determine the optimal laboratory testing protocol for patients with acne taking isotretinoin. However, the number of patients included in this study was too small to support its conclusions. Thus, I think this edition cannot be published on World Journal of Clinical Cases. Besides, I still have some comments : 1. The authors should provide data of “ The total number of patients diagnosed with acne from 2005 to 2020” and “The number of acne patients excluded ”. 2. The authors mention the total number of prescription days ranged from 230 to 1216 days. The longest prescription days was more than 3 years. Did some patients have a second or third course of isotretinoin? 3. Line 136: “one (60%),” should be changed as “one (6%)”. 4. Line 138: “administration (n=30).” should be revised as “administration (n=10)”.

: Thank you very much for your delicate advice. I'll try to answer some of the things you reviewed.

First of all, I admit that the sample size in this paper is very small. As a retrospective study, a small number of patients meeting the inclusion and exclusion criteria were remained. The authors are also very sorry about this point, but first, we published the paper to share the results of retrospective for further studies. We are planning an additional prospective study to compensate for this, and look forward to analyzing a larger number of patients through a detailed study design.

Second, some parts of the manuscript had been modified based on your comment.

1. As suggested, the exclusion criteria were described in detail, and the total number of acne patients initially recruited and the number of acne patients excluded were described.
2. In the previous manuscript, the analysis included only the six-month period of lab monitoring, but the overall demographics described the entire isotretinoin intake period during the recruitment period. Based on your comments, we believe that there may be confusion, so we have corrected only the time period included in the analysis. Likewise, the total prescription dose was also modified.
3. It seems that there was a typo in the process of writing the text. Thank you very much for finding the errors. We edited the manuscript as per your comments.

We hope that your requests have been answered satisfactorily.