

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



June 12, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 2554-final review.doc).

Title: HCV-specific immune responses induced by CIGB-230 in combination with IFN- α plus ribavirin

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 2554

1 The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

Reviewer comment (1): Statistical representations and results section is too complex and difficult to understand and sentences are too long. To increase the readability and to cover the scope of the journal, I recommend to focus more on relevant positive findings rather than discussing the statistics in a complex manner.

Reply to reviewer comment: To increase the readability of the manuscript we have focused on the positive findings that we consider more relevant. Other findings and explicative comments which we consider less relevant have been eliminated. These include Figure 6 and related text in the Results section, which were eliminated in the revised version. The text relating figure 5 has been simplified in order to be more compact and comprehensible. Text insertions have been highlighted in yellow.

Reviewer comment (2): After completion of therapy SVR is still not significant clinically and does not represent good therapeutic results. It should be more focused and discussed in results section.

Reply to reviewer comment: Regarding SVR rates observed in the study, we have now emphasized in Results and Discussion sections that no differences in SVR rates were detected among the different groups, and that SVR rates observed in the triple therapy including CIGB-230 were lower than those reported for the recently licensed direct acting antivirals. These elements were added and are highlighted in the revised manuscript.

Reviewer comment (3): Information about No. of patients who have undergone histological evaluation should be mentioned.

Reply to reviewer comment: Information about No. of patients who have undergone histological evaluation is provided in table 1. We have now clarified that *n* means number of evaluated patients.

Reviewer comment (4): In L6 group, subgroup statistical significance was more stressed rather than discussing statistical significant of L6 group as a whole.

Reply to reviewer comment: Regarding the statistical significance of results of L6 group, we have discussed thoroughly L6 group as a whole. Nevertheless, we also consider that the differences between sustained viral responders and non sustained viral responders within that group are of relevant biological significance, such as:

- The significant enhancement in the neutralizing antibody response was observed in patients achieving the SVR in contrast to virological non-responders.

- Taking into account patients showing the increase in the neutralizing antibody response and/or in the IFN- γ secretion in L6 group, a statistically significant correspondence was detected with the SVR.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the editor

- (1) Full names of all authors have been provided.

- (2) All post codes have been provided.

- (3) Core tip was added to the manuscript.

- (4) Background, Research frontiers, Innovations and breakthroughs, Applications, Terminology and Peer review notes have been added to the manuscript.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,



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