

Jul 29, 2018

Professor Lian-Sheng Ma,
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Editor-in-Chief
World Journal of Gastroenterology

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

Thank you very much for your suggestions. We respond to reviewer's request in Italics. In addition, corrections are shown in red throughout the text. Thanks to you, the quality of our manuscript has improved. Please see below our responses.

Respectfully,

Ken Sato MD, PhD, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Gunma University Graduate School of Medicine, 3-39-22 Showa-machi, Maebashi, Gunma 371-8511, Japan, Tel: 81-27-220-8127; Fax: 81-27-220-8136; E-mail: satoken@showa.gunma-u.ac.jp

1. Reviewer's comment (Number ID 02540539)

Specific Comments To Authors: P32 deletion is the hot topic in DAA-associated mutation. Overcoming the mutation is very important. Therefore, this manuscript has high grade priority to be published. The authors well described about P32 mutation comprehensively.

Thank you very much for your comment.

2. Reviewer's comment (Number ID 00052928)

Specific Comments To Authors: This editorial focuses on the problem of the recently-found super resistant-associated substitution (RAS), S5A-P32 deletion, in HCV infection. The manuscript describes in detail as to the background situation of the appearance of P32 deletion, the relationship of P32 deletion with other RASs, and the responses to the new DAA therapies. Minor: Though the author insists that "P32 deletion and Y93 mutants and L31 mutants are mutually exclusive", P32 deletion is often accompanied by L31F mutation

actually. Therefore, excessive emphasizing of the mutual exclusiveness might cause misunderstanding.

As you suggested, L31F often coexisted with "P32 deletion". To describe the characteristics of "P32 deletion", we think that it is very important finding that P32 deletion and certain RASs are unlikely to coexist. Then, to avoid misunderstanding, we withheld the direct comments on the association between "P32 deletion" and "L31-RAS" and changed the mild expressions. Please see lines, 145-147, 168-169, and 269.