

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

ESPS manuscript NO: 26728

Title: Regulatory and activated effector T cells in chronic HCV; relation to autoimmunity

Reviewer's code: 02936520

This is a prospective study assessing the state of immune activation of T cell subpopulations in patients with chronic HCV type 4 infection, treated and naive. It is acceptable in its design and presentation. However,

1. Copy editing of the manuscript is necessary,

Response: Copy editing was done.

2. Presentation of the tables of the results section in a more detailed form to show the statistical significance values between each two studied groups not the study population as a whole.

Response: Tables 3 and 4 were added to the manuscript to describe detailed multiple comparisons with Tukey Kramer post Hoc statistical test.

3. Also, the discussion needs to be more focused and to show concepts rather than discussion of individual findings.

Response: Discussion was minimized, focused and abbreviated to show essential concepts.

Reviewer's code: 02939199

This paper may be interest to the readers of the journal and provide some knowledge for clinicians and researchers. I think this manuscript can be accepted with a major revision. Major comments:

1. Paper writing format have not referred to the journal guidelines, such as the small title of the section of patients and methods, chart format, etc.

Response: All Journal guidelines were conducted in the revised submitted version.

2. The text is a bit too long and sometimes redundant, especially in the section of discussion.

Response: Discussion was abbreviated, minimized and focused to show essential concepts only.

3. Overall, grammar and language needs significant working before resubmitting to the journal.

Response: Grammar and language were checked and corrected.

4. Abstract should be concise and accurate, such as "Group II (n=30) chronic HCV treated with old standard of care; Peg/Riba," should change to "Group II (n=30) chronic HCV treated with Peg/Riba", and "120 patients divided into 4 groups" should change to "120 subjects divided into 4 groups" etc.

Response: All requested text modifications were done.