We are grateful to your comments. The dose of thimerosal used in our study was according to the common mercury content in hepatitis B which was 12.5 μ g,^[1] and converted into microgram per kilogram for rat by surface conversion formula. Next, according to the 1, 2, 3, 4 times, we designed 4 groups of thimerosal dose. Since thimerosal was dissolved in saline, we used saline group as a control in which main item was excluded for the saline interference.

We agreed that it was worth mentioning that aluminum is not considered in any thimerosal experimental study, which is an adjuvant of thimerosal-containing vaccines (TCVs). Given the reasons you suggested in the letter, we also strongly believed that it is urgent to study the combined effect of ethylmercury plus adjuvant-Al in TCVs. Of course, just as you said that TCV taken during pregnancy and other cumulative sources of environmental Hg

exposure are not considered in experimental study now.

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doi: 10.1007/s12519-014-0487-8