

Dr Clara Balsano
World Journal of Hepatology
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December 13, 2014

Dear Dr Balsano,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 14400-review.doc).

Title: Current developments in pediatric liver transplantation

Authors: Christina Hackl, Hans J Schlitt, Michael Melter, Birgit Knoppke, Martin Loss

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 14400, invited review

We are happy about the positive reviewers comments and have improved the manuscript according to the suggestions of reviewers:

Editorial comments

A conflict of interest statement has been added and the pdf coi-document is attached.
A core tip has been added.
The reference style has been checked and modified. All authors are named.

Reviewer 02861363

This was a nicely written review article. Please consider to add one table to compare the major difference between pediatric and adult liver transplantation.

We thank the reviewer very much for the very positive feedback. As suggested, we did compile a table comparing the major differences between pediatric and adult LT as suggested by this reviewer. However, we felt that this table did not add significant information to the review. We therefore abandoned it again. However, if the reviewer and the editor still wishes to see such a comparative table, we will be happy to provide it.

Reviewer 02444774

The manuscript contains wide range of topics not only about pediatric transplant but also general issues in adult transplant and it's partly informative. However, the discussions for each topic are generally superficial and are not interacted to their clinical experience. For example, the manuscript contains

the topics about immune suppressive drugs and even tolerance with stem cell transplant, which usually requires several whole different papers to be discussed sufficiently. Therefore, I recommend that the manuscript should be more focused on a certain topic as authors mentioned in abstract; LDLT and DDLT. It required to be rewritten and reviewed deeply about a single topic with their clinical experience, besides it might contain some other topics just to make the article consistent.

Thanks to this review we have improved the manuscript as follows: the manuscript now focuses more on pediatric LT. Especially in the chapter „organ allocation“, the parts discussing organ allocation in general / allocation for adult recipients have been deleted or significantly shortened.

The discussion, especially of the clinical outcome, is now more focused on pediatric LT and subchapters now focus on

- Age of recipients, patient and graft survival
- Acute complications: comparison of DDLT, LDLT, and split DDLT
- Long-term transplant-related complications
- Long-term morbidity and quality of life

As suggested by the reviewer, a thorough review of short and long-term outcome of pLT after DDLT versus LDLT and split DDLT is now performed, which we hope is in line with the suggestions of the reviewer to be „more focused“ and to „it might contain some other topics“.

Immunosuppressive therapy is an important aspect in pediatric LT, since many immunosuppressive drugs can have significant influence on morbidity and quality of life in these young-patients still awaiting a long life after LT. Furthermore, especially LDLT in pediatric patients, immunotolerance may be observed in a limited number of patients and adequate weaning of immunosuppressive therapy is then indicated. We fully agree with the reviewer, that an exhaustive review of immunosuppressive drugs would be a separate review. However, we consider the ongoing developments in immunosuppression in pLT to be of relevant importance not to omit this chapter.

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

Best regards,
Christina Hackl and Martin Loss