

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



January 28, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 15754-review.doc).

Title: Patient characteristics with high or low blood urea nitrogen in upper gastrointestinal bleeding

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

i) It has drawn from a large sample size, of which only 56 had BUN analyzed. Some basic statistics on the difference between those 56 and the rest of the cohort would be beneficial.

Response: There might be a selection bias when physicians determined to examine BUN. To analyze the potential bias, patient characteristics were analyzed between those with BUN and those without BUN (Table 3).

ii) The names of the two groups Higher and Lower is confusing. Please consider altering to something more academic that will not confuse the reader. Eg. "WBC was higher and Hb was lower in the Higher group".

Response: Groups "Higher" and "Lower" were abbreviated to "H" and "L".

The final sentence of the manuscript states "Higher BUN indicated more severe upper GI bleeding". I presume this simply mean that patients with a BUN ≥ 21 have a more severe bleed. However, that is not obvious from the sentence, and the reader may falsely conclude that you have analysed several levels of BUN and treated BUN as a continuous variable.

Response: The final sentence was changed to "Patients with BUN ≥ 21 mg/dL might have more severe upper GI bleeding."

iii) Background is good. You state that your aim is to determine the reason for the difference between higher and lower. What are your findings in relation to this study aim?

Response: The reason of the difference between the H group and the L group was associated with the severity of bleeding. Present study showed that patients with BUN ≥ 21 mg/dL might have more severe upper GI bleeding. "Conclusion" of Abstract and "In conclusion ..." of Discussion were changed.

iv) Methods: Here you have included details about the cohort. Traditionally this belongs in results. Also consider doing a multivariate analysis, in which all the associations are included in the same analysis to try to tease out some unique and true associations.

Response: Details about the cohort was moved to Results. Logistic regression analysis was performed (Table 4). Discussion on the results of logistic regression analysis was added in Discussion.

v) Results: be sure not to duplicate information given in tables. You introduce a new hypothesis in the result section. Please move this to its more appropriate location. "We hypothesized that severity of bleeding differed between the Higher and Lower groups."

Response: P-values were deleted in Results because they were shown in tables. "We hypothesized that severity of bleeding differed between the Higher and Lower groups." was moved to Discussion, and changed to "It was hypothesized that severity of bleeding differed between the Higher and Lower groups."

vi) Please reword this section as it is confusing and jumping between ulcers and cancers: "The percentage of patients with gastric ulcer was higher in the Higher group ($P = 0.0002$). There were no patients with gastric cancer in the Higher group. The number of gastric ulcer patients was almost the same in both groups."

Response: The most significant finding was that the H group had no patients with gastric cancer. This part was changed to "There were no patients with gastric cancer in the H group.", focusing on gastric cancer.

vii) Discussion: Should be more contextual and inclusive of other study's findings.

Response: The most significant result was the association between Hb and BUN. Paragraph on Hb was moved to the first, and references were added.

viii) What do the authors propose is the clinical usefulness of their findings?

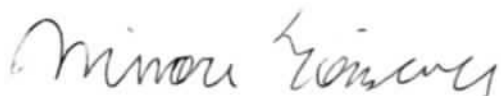
Response: It was recommended that severe upper GI bleeding be considered when BUN was higher than 21.0 mg/dL. "Conclusion" of Abstract and "In conclusion..." of Discussion were changed.

ix) Please consider adding further limitations to your study, eg its retrospective nature.

Response: Blood test variables were missing in part of part of patients. There might be a selection bias regarding determination of examination of BUN. These points were retrospective nature, and added in Discussion.

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

Sincerely yours,



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