

Date: 11/26/15

Re: Reply to reviewers

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Pharmacology and Therapeutics

ESPS manuscript NO: 21446

Title: Under-diagnosing and Under-treating Iron-Deficiency in Hospitalized Patients with Gastrointestinal Bleeding

Dear Editor and reviewers,

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript. We have revised our manuscript and adjusted it according to the editor and reviewers requests. Please find below our answers to the reviewers questions and comments.

(1) Reviewer 00183453:

I believe that there was a typing mistake when the reviewer typed the PMID. The article "15596126" that the reviewer mentioned is actually about H. pylori gastritis pathophysiology and we could not find the information that the reviewer is suggesting to add to our discussion.

(2) Reviewer 00504545:

The reviewer suggested adding p-values to table 1. Our answer is the following: p-values cannot be calculated to compare the 2 different groups because the group "GI bleeders with proven iron deficiency" is technically part of the "GI bleeders" group and therefore it would not be statistically sound to compare them as different/exclusive groups. To get a p-value, we need two groups where patients are only represented in one group, not both. To be able to do any comparison, we will have to exclude the "GI bleeders with proven iron deficiency" from the "GI bleeders", and that was not our goal in this table. We presented our results in one table because we were trying to present our results in a concise manner. We did not present our results in one table to try to compare them because that is not statistically correct.

The reviewer also suggested adding more references to have around 30-40 references. We searched the literature again and did not find any articles that can be added to our discussion or references that would add any significant value to the manuscript. We believe that our handpicked references represent the most comprehensive literature review on this topic. As mentioned in the manuscript, there is an extremely limited number of publications discussing this issue, and

we have included all of them in our references.

(3) Reviewer 02441247 suggested accepting the manuscript without any other requests.

(4) Reviewer 00068864 suggested accepting the manuscript without any requests.

Thank you,

Mustapha El-Halabi, MD
On behalf of all the authors