

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Title: Nutritional and health benefits of semi-elemental diets: A comprehensive summary of the literature

Author: Dominik D Alexander, Lauren C Bylsma, Laura Elkayam, Douglas L Nguyen

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Pharmacology and Therapeutics*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 22073

Dear Editor,

We appreciated the thoughtful suggestions from the reviewers regarding our manuscript. We made revisions based on these suggestions and we believe the manuscript is now much improved.

We have reformatted the paper, references, and abstract per the journal's guidelines. Additionally, below you will find the reviewer comments followed by our responses. We have also highlighted the changes in green. Thank you for your time. We look forward to hearing from you.

Reviewer 1:

Comment: Thank you very much for giving a chance to review your ms. The following is my minor comments. 1. The title is a little bit ambiguous. Please delete "100%" or revise as follows: WHEY-HYDROLYZED PROTEIN SEMI-ELEMENTAL DIETS (100%).

Reply: Thank you. We have revised the title of the manuscript as follows: "Nutritional and health benefits of semi-elemental diets: A comprehensive summary of the literature." This title also meets the requirement of maximum of 12 words.

Reviewer 2:

The authors performed a comprehensive literature search on the nutritional and health outcomes among patient groups receiving semi-elemental diets. The review is an important one. The manuscript is well written and the results are clearly presented and discussed. The authors are advised to modify the title to reflect the work done.

Reply: Thank you. We have revised the title of the manuscript as follows: "Nutritional and health benefits of semi-elemental diets: A comprehensive summary of the literature." This title also meets the requirement of maximum of 12 words.

Reviewer 3:

The authors are to be commended on an extremely well written and helpful manuscript! I look forward to seeing the manuscript in print. Two minor questions for the author:

1. Based on your study, are there any circumstance where you would recommend TPN? Infants with NEC, for example?

Reply: We totally agree with you with regards to special circumstances in which TPN should be considered. These cases include infants with NEC, patients with gut failure, patients with intestinal obstructions, patients with many intra-abdominal fistulas. We are doing a case series looking at the role of TPN in selected Crohn's patients with extensive small bowel disease as a means for pre-operative optimization. However, this topic is beyond the scope of our current paper which is to review the role of semi-elemental formulations in management of various health questions.

2. Can you say anything about different formulations of essential nutrients? Is this extremely standard, or do different suppliers produce different products? Does it matter as far as you can tell?

Reply: Most of enteral nutrition formulas contain essential micronutrients and usually additional supplementation are not needed unless a true deficiency exist. Again, this is very generalizable and likely beyond the scope of our paper.]

Reviewer 4:

Comment: A nicely written exhaustive review, I have no substantive points to raise.

Reply: Thank you.

Sincerely,

Douglas Nguyen, MD