

November 15, 2015

To: World Journal of Hepatology

Dear Editor:

As the senior author, I have actively participated and reviewed the statistical aspects of the paper entitled: Portal hypertensive gastropathy: Pathophysiology, clinical presentation, natural history, and therapy by Mihajlo Gjeorgjievski, M.D., & Mitchell S. Cappell, M.D., Ph.D.

The paper is submitted as a review article to World Journal of Hepatology #22919.

This review reports previously published statistics based on previously published data, but does not report any new statistical analyses. This review paper describes the inclusion criteria used to select the appropriate literature, reports the findings of each paper separately without combining results from different studies, and does not report any new statistics of weighted averages. Therefore, this review does not represent a meta-analysis.

My qualifications/expertise in biostatistics include a Ph.D. degree in biomedical research from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, NY which incorporated an in-depth program in statistical research and design as well as application of these techniques in a published doctoral thesis. I perform statistical analysis for my own research and for others at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine at Royal Oak, Michigan. I am a Professor of Medicine at this medical school.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mitchell S. Cappell', is written over a horizontal line.

Mitchell S. Cappell, M.D., Ph.D.

Chief of Gastroenterology & Hepatology

William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI

Professor of Medicine

Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, Royal Oak, Michigan

Consultant, United States FDA (Food & Drug Administration)

Advisory Committee on Gastrointestinal Drugs