

June 1, 2017

Dear Editors of World Journal of Clinical Oncology:

The attached manuscript entitled "Characteristics of *Clostridium difficile* Infection in Patients Hospitalized with Myelodysplastic Syndrome or Acute Myelogenous Leukemia" is submitted with revision for consideration for publication in your journal.

The following revisions to the body of the manuscript were made in response to the reviewer's comments.

Page 6, lines 147-154: Please define the criteria to include these demographics and clinical data and not other (eg. serum acute phase indices.)

In lines 155-157 the following statement was added: "Data collected included factors previously associated with CDI and focused on investigating the primary aim of our study as described above."

Page 8, lines 200-201, "15.2% of patients diagnosed with CDI during the 28-months study period". Please provide from literature respective CDI rates from different studies including either hematology malignancy patients or patients with other immunosuppressive conditions.

In lines 204-207 the following statement was added: "This is comparable to previous reports. In a retrospective study of AML patients receiving chemotherapy, the incidence of CDI was 18% [13]. In another similar study, the incidence was 12% [14]."

Please in discussion insert a paragraph focusing on novel findings of your study.

In lines 287-291 the following language was added: "Prophylactic strategies to lower the burden of CDI in MDS/AML patients are needed. In this study, we have identified a subset of this high-risk population in which prophylaxis studies could be targeted. These findings are novel and increase our understanding of CDI in this patient population as well as open new frontiers of research."

Revisions to the citations and references (including the DOI and PMID where appropriate) were also performed as directed by the editor.

Thank you for considering our revised manuscript for publication in World Journal of Clinical Oncology.

Sincerely,



Erik C. von Rosenvinge, MD  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Chief of Gastroenterology  
VA Maryland Health Care System

