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Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Dear editor,

We thank you for the thorough assessment of our manuscript, 'Liver failure caused by prolonged state of malnutrition following bariatric surgery' (manuscript number: 37367), the helpful and constructive comments and the opportunity for resubmission. Please find attached our point-by-point response and the revised version of the manuscript with all changes highlighted.

We sincerely hope our response clarifies the questions with respect to our case report and that the revised manuscript meets the scientific standards of World Journal of Hepatology and may now be acceptable for publication.

Yours sincerely,

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Editor

Thank you for your suggestions for layout and improvement of the manuscript. We have edited the manuscript and added your suggestions.

Reviewer 1

A brief description of two cases of progressive liver failure following bariatric surgery. These cases were rather common with malabsorption procedures; in these cases liver failure followed a less invasive procedure and the reason(s) remains scarcely identified. The severity of hypoalbuminemia is impressive. I have never seen these values. It is surprising that liver failure was not accompanied by either high levels of liver cell necrosis, or by portal hypertension (see platelet levels), and occurred during hospital stay, irrespective of treatment. I do suspect that the role of self-induced food restriction was more important than malabsorption in liver failure. There is no mention of Vitamin A measurement. Considering the potential toxic role of vitamin A accumulation it would be important to exclude this possible cause.

Thank you for your review. Unfortunately, I could not find any data on Vitamin A.

1. In table, why the second case is referred to as Case 3?

Thank you for your correction. Apologize for mistyping the title of table 1. We changed 'case 3' to 'case 2' in table 1.

2. What was the final BMI of Case 1?

The final weight of the patient was 70kg (BMI 24.8 kg/m²).

Reviewer 2

1. Was postmortem liver biopsy carried out in both the patients?

Unfortunately, the families of both patients did not give permission to perform post mortem investigations to better understand why liver failure occurred.

2. The table refers to case 1 & case 3 (?case 2)

Thank you for your correction. Apologize for mistyping the title of table 1. We changed 'case 3' to 'case 2' in table 1.