

## A point-by-point response letter

Nov 25, 2019

To editor and reviewers

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript Number:** 51793

**Title of manuscript:** Rifaximin improves survival in cirrhotic patients with refractory ascites: a real-world study

Dear editor and reviewers,

On behalf of all co-authors, I would like to thank the reviewers and the editor for your well-considered and critical comments on our manuscript. With regard to the reviewers' comments and suggestions, we wish to reply as follows:

### Reviewer 1:

The authors conducted the observational study to clarify the effect of rifaximin on the cases of liver cirrhosis complicated with the refractory anemia. The results of clinical outcomes and the structure and function of intestinal bacteria are well understandable and as an observational study, they have provided the necessary information regarding the prognosis. Therefore, this manuscript can be published in the journal as an observational study.

**Answer:** Thanks for your nice comments and consideration for publication of our manuscript.

### Reviewer 2:

1. Please clarify how was refractory ascites diagnosed and the choice of that conventional therapy (oral diuretic: furosemide 80 mg/d + spironolactone 160 mg/d).

**Answer:** Thanks for the valuable and helpful comments. Refractory ascites was diagnosed and the choice of that conventional therapy (oral diuretic: furosemide 80 mg/d + spironolactone 160 mg/d) according to recommendations from *Chinese guidelines on the management of ascites and complications in cirrhosis in 2017*, we added some words in revised manuscript.

2. Authors include in the study ascitic patients both with SBP and not. Please discuss the reason.

**Answer:** Thanks for helpful suggestion. There exists a proportion of patients with SBP in cirrhotic patients with refractory ascites so these people cannot be ignored. Therefore, we include in the study ascitic patients both with SBP and not. There was no significant difference in the proportion of SBP patients in the rifaximin and control groups. Given that patients with SBP would be treated routinely with intravenous antibiotics, which may affect the structure and composition of intestinal microbiota, we made a subgroup analysis of the influence of the treatment on structure and composition of intestinal microbiota.

3. Please analyze patients survival using competing risk analysis.

**Answer:** Thanks for the valuable and helpful suggestion. We have analyzed patients' survival using competing risk analysis in revised manuscript. This suggestion is very helpful for us and we will also apply competing risk analysis to future study.

Thank you again.

**Editor:**

1. Please read these four important guidelines carefully and modify your figure(s) accordingly:

First, all submitted figures, including the text contained within the figures, must be editable. Please provide the text in your figure(s) in text boxes.

Second, for line drawings that were automatically generated with software, please provide the labels/values of the ordinate and abscissa in text boxes.

Third, please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor.

Fourth, in consideration of color-blind readers, please avoid using red and green for contrast in vector graphics or images.

For pictures with multiple parts, please create text box in the upper left corner with uppercase letters A, B, etc.; please use SmartArt, text box and shape to draw the flowchart directly in PowerPoint;

**Answer:** Thanks for your patient descriptions, I have revised in the PowerPoint of

figures and uploaded the file.

2. Your manuscript should be prepared with Word-processing Software, using 12 pt Book Antiqua font and 1.5 line spacing with ample margins.

**Answer:** Thank you for your reminding. I have revised in the manuscript.

3. Co-first authors and co-corresponding authors are not allowed.

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4. You need to provide the grant application form(s) or certificate of funding agency for every grant, or we will delete the part of "**Supported by...**". 请提供所有的项目资助证明

**Answer:** Thank you for your reminding. Except for Beijing Natural Science Foundation-Beijing Municipal Committee of Education (No. KZ201810025037) is unavailable, I have uploaded the other certificates of funding agency in the manuscript files and deleted Beijing Natural Science Foundation-Beijing Municipal Committee of Education (No. KZ201810025037) in the revised manuscript.

5. Please upload the primary version (PDF) of the Informed Consent Form that has been signed by all subjects and investigators of the study, prepared in the official language of the authors' country to the system. 请提供知情同意书文件，系统中上传的应该是模板

**Answer:** Thanks for your reminding. I have uploaded the primary version (PDF) of the Informed Consent Form that has been signed by all subjects and investigators of the study in the manuscript files.

6. Abbreviations and acronyms are often defined the first time they are used within the main text and then used throughout the remainder of the manuscript. Please consider adhering to this convention.

**Answer:** Thanks for your comment and I feel so sorry for my fault. I have revised in

the manuscript.

7. Please correct all cited references number like [number], then keep them superscript. There are no spaces before [number].

**Answer:** Thanks for your kind comment and I feel so sorry for my fault. I have revised in the manuscript.

8. Please check and confirm that there are no repeated references! Please correct all cited references number like [number], then keep them superscript. Please download the reference template. Please add PubMed citation numbers (PMID NOT PMCID) and DOI citation to the reference list and list all authors.

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**Answer:** Thanks for your reminding, I feel so sorry for my fault. I have revised in the manuscript. However, the DOI of reference 9 was unavailable.

9. Corresponding Author's Membership in Professional Societies:

**Answer:** Thanks for your reminding. I have added this part in the manuscript.

10. Figure/table

For figures, use distinct colors with comparable visibility and consider colorblind individuals by avoiding the use of red and green for contrast.

Please don't include abbreviations in the title of the figure/table.

Please explain all the abbreviations in the figure/table legends as full name (abbreviation).

Please explain all the abbreviations of each figure/table under each piece of figure/table legends.

Please create another file for all the supplementary figures and tables and name the file as "xxxxxx-Supplementary material.pdf"

**Answer:** Thanks for your reminding. I have revised in the manuscript and uploaded the revised files.

11. Please don't include any \*, #, ...in your manuscript; Please use superscript numbers for illustration; and for statistical significance, please use superscript letters.

**Answer:** Thank you for your suggestion. I have communicated with the Editor Tang and we decided not to modify temporarily.

Thank you again for your valuable comments and kind help.

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