

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



October 18, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5303-review.doc).

**Title:** Shunting branch of portal vein and stent position predicting survival after TIPS

**Author:** Ming Bai, Guo-Hong Han, Chuang-Ye He, Xing-Shun Qi, Zhan-Xin Yin, Jian-Hong Wang, Wen-Gang Guo, Jing Niu, Jie-Lai Xia, Zhuoli Zhang, Andrew C. Larson, Kai-Chun Wu, Dai-Ming Fan

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5303

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of editors and reviewers, and the made revisions were highlighted in yellow.

1 Format has been updated. The manuscript has been edited by American Journal of Expert for language polishing (Editorial Certification: 0886-4A80-CC33-61FC-99D0).

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer:

**Reviewer 1:**

Comment 1:

I had the opportunity to review a paper "The shunting branch of the portal vein and the initial stent position predicting survival in cirrhotic patients undergoing TIPS", and I found very interesting. There is no problem to publish the manuscript.

Answer:

Thank you very much for that you are interesting in our study. We have polished our manuscript again for the publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

**Reviewer 2:**

Comment 1:

There is no gastroenterologist among authors, although the study is done on cirrhotic patients.

Answer:

Thank you very much for your valuable advices on our manuscript. Most likely, your confusion was caused by our inappropriate expression of the authors' affiliations. Both Dai-Ming Fan and Kai-Chun Wu are experienced gastroenterologist and have published a lot of papers about gastroenterology. They preside over Xijing Hospital of Digestive Diseases. Therefore, we revised the expression of their affiliations. (Page 1 line 22-23)

**Comment 2:**

It is stated in the method section that the data was retrospectively analyzed as well as "A written informed consent was obtained from every patient before TIPS." It should be clarified that whether informed consent was

for the study and in that case the study is a prospective one

**Answer:**

Thank you very much for your valuable advices. You are right about that our study is a retrospective one. The informed consent referred in the method section is not prospectively signed for the study but for the agreement on TIPS procedure. We revised this sentence according to your comment. (Page 6 line 3-4)

**Comment 3:**

Table 1 and 2: the meaning of “stent time” should be explained. These tables are too craudy, they may be simplified only showing the statistically significant parameters and mentioning the non-significant ones within the text.

Answer:

Thank you very much for your valuable advices. Most likely, the “stent time” referred in your comment should be “TIPS time”. “TIPS time” means the data of the patients had TIPS procedure. The timeline improvement in the care of patients with cirrhosis during the study may influence the patient outcome and the study results. In order to eliminate the influence of this factor, we divided the patients according to the “TIPS time” into two groups: patients had TIPS procedure before 2006 and those had TIPS procedure thereafter. And, we included “TIPS time” in the univariate analysis and multivariate analysis. It was not identified as a risk factor of HE, shunt dysfunction, and survival. This suggests that the patients in our cohort have relatively stable outcomes.

According to your comment, we revised “TIPS time” into “TIPS date” and added an explanation of “TIPS date” in the footnote of Table 1. Table 2 was simplified according to your advice as well. The non-significant parameters were removed from Table 2 and added in the statistical methods section. And, the *P* values of non-significant analyses were replaced by “NS”. Because only one comparison in Table 1 was significantly different, we deleted the *P* value columns and identified the significant comparison in the footnote.

3 References and typesetting were corrected.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,



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