

Dear Editor and Reviewers,

Thank you very much for taking your time to review my manuscript entitled " **Therapeutic efficiency of bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells for liver fibrosis: A systematic review of *in vivo* studies** "(manuscript number: 55373, Review). I really appreciate all your comments and suggestions! Kindly find my itemized responses below and my revisions/ corrections in the re-submitted files.

**Reviewer #1 (Major Revision):**

1. Reviewer #1:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade D (Fair)

**Language Quality:** Grade C (A great deal of language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Major revision

**Specific Comments to Authors:** The manuscript provides a review summarizing different aspects relative to the implementation of BM MSCs for the treatment of liver fibrosis. The topic is relevant and the review is timely. However, there are several aspects that must be considered by the authors. Overall, the manuscript contains various sections discussing different aspects, some of which are not of sound interest, considering that the focus of the analysis is that indicated in the title. **The sections dedicated to liver fibrosis and MSCs should be shortened and focused on the main topic of the review. In contrast, the last section dedicated to analyze the efficiency of BM-MSCs treatment of liver fibrosis should be substantially extended and enriched with provocative discussions.** Additional comments are as follows: **Figures must be explained in more detail in the main text and in more auto explicative figure legends. The concept of therapeutic imminence index must be defined. How is it calculated? In which principles is it based on?**

*Response:*

- The sections dedicated to liver fibrosis and MSCs are shortened and more focused on the main topic of the review, and the last section dedicated to analyze the efficiency of BM-MSCs treatment of liver fibrosis has been extended, elaborated and enriched with provocative discussions.
- The figures have been explained in more detail in the main text and in figure legends.
- The concept of therapeutic imminence index is The therapeutic imminence index represents the amount of research that has advanced into clinical trials in the last 10 years, and it is based on a study done by Macrin et al's [48]

2. Reviewer #2:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade B (Very good)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Minor revision

**Specific Comments to Authors:** 1) General comments Dr. Aldhamin and Dr. Nan, et al. reviewed 'The Therapeutic Efficiency of Bone Marrow-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells for liver fibrosis: A Systematic Review of In vivo Studies'. The article is informative and well presentation. The reviewer has some comments. 1. **The reviewer should describe CONCLUSIONS more briefly.** The reviewer described limitations of this review. **Please separate limitations from CONCLUSIONS. The authors can describe Limitations and Further (Future) Study with a heading before CONCLUSIONS.**

Response:

- The conclusion is described more briefly. And the limitation and further studies are separated from CONCLUSIONS and moved to a heading before CONCLUSIONS.

3. Reviewer #4:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade B (Very good)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (General priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** The comprehensive review of Aldhamin et al. aimed to summarize the therapeutic possibilities of BMDSCs for liver fibrosis by systematically revising the latest literature of in vivo studies. This manuscript is well written, structured in a logical way, the figures and tables are all clear, well presented and informative. After a brief review of the complex pathogenesis of liver fibrosis the authors focused on the identification of BMDMSCs and summarize their potential contribution of liver physiology/pathology. The revision of cell culturing, improvement of stem cell efficiency, and the routes of SC transplantation are well detailed, all the current strategies are well presented. The review in vivo study results are also clear, contains relevant data, and gives a future perspective for the topic. The conclusions are clear and moderately presented. The used references are adequate. **Some minor English language polishing is recommended.** I suggest to accept the manuscript for publication in WJG.

Response:

- We went through the English language again and used a professional English language editing company. That provided us with an English Language Certificate, with grade A priority publishing and certifies that no language polishing is required after the edit. This certificate is forwarded to the journal.

4. **(1) Science editor:** 1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a review of the bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells in liver fibrosis. The topic is within the scope of the WJG.

(1) Classification: Grade B, Grade B, Grade B, Grade C and Grade D;

(2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: This review aimed to summarize the therapeutic possibilities of BMDSCs for liver fibrosis by systematically revising the latest literature of in vivo studies. The article is informative and well presentation. However, there are some issues should be addressed. Figures must be explained in more detail in the main text and in more auto explicative figure legends. The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered; and

(3) Format: There are 2 tables and 8 figures. A total of 143 references are cited, including 23 references published in the last 3 years. There are no self-citations.

2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade B, Grade B, Grade B, Grade B and Grade C.

3 Academic norms and rules: **The authors need to provide the signed Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and Copyright License Agreement. No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search. The CrossCheck results showed the similarity to be high (overall similarity index: 42%). According to our policy, the overall similarity index should be less than 30%, and the single-source similarity should be less than 5%. Please rephrase these repeated sentences.**

4 Supplementary comments: This is an unsolicited manuscript. The study was supported by Key Research and development Program of Hebei Province. The topic has not previously been published in the WJG. The corresponding author has published 1 article in the BPG.

5 Issues raised: (1) I found the language classification was grade C. Please visit the following website for the professional English language editing companies we recommend: <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240>; (2) **I found the authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s);** and (3) **I found the authors did not provide the original figures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor.** 6 Re-Review: Required. 7 Recommendation: Conditionally accepted.

Response:

- We provided the signed Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and Copyright License Agreement.
- After using a professional English language editing company, the similarity index is now less than 30%, This company provided us with an English Language Certificate, with

grade A priority publishing and certifies that no language polishing is required after the edit. This certificate is forwarded to the journal.

- We uploaded the approved grant application form(s).
- we provided the original figures documents, prepared, and arranged them using PowerPoint where we ensured that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor