

11th August 2020

Dear Editor in Chief, World Journal of Gastroenterology

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to resubmit a revised copy of this manuscript. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the reviewers for the positive feedback and helpful comments for correction or modification.

We believe have resulted in an improved revised manuscript, which you will find uploaded alongside this document. The manuscript has been revised to address the reviewer comments, which are appended alongside our responses to this letter.

We very much hope the revised manuscript is accepted for publication in World Journal of Gastroenterology.

Title: Tacrolimus and mycophenolate mofetil as second line treatment in autoimmune hepatitis: Is the evidence of sufficient quality to develop recommendations?

Authors: Mohammadreza Abdollahi, Neda Khalilian Ekrami, Morteza Ghojazadeh, H. Marike Boezen, Mohammadhossein Somi, Behrooz Z. Alizadeh

Manuscript No: 56866

Reviewer 03476715: "There is an error in Figure 1(Flow diagram of articles retrieved by our systematic literature search)."

Answer: Thank you very much for your comment and notice. Figure 1 is corrected based on PRISMA flow chart and the title is changed to "PRISMA flow diagram of the articles retrieved by systematic literature search".

Reviewer 02839880: "please revise carefully the English language and check throughout the text for spelling errors (e.g. first line of the discussion "compromising"). The Methods section is clear and well described. Tables are detailed and helpful for the readers. I would include further discussion in the conclusion paragraph on the future direction and perspectives."

Answer: Thank you very much for your comments. English Language work up was done by a scientific language editor prior to submission to the journal. We checked again throughout the text for spelling errors and the spelling error for "compromising" corrected as "comprising" in first line of discussion.

Further discussion in the conclusion paragraph on the future direction and perspectives is added at the end of conclusion paragraph stated as " Future prospects in AIH treatments, especially in refractory patients, will be establishing individualized approaches to develop more effective and better tolerated novel therapies."

Issues raised by scientific editor:

The questions raised by the reviewers have been answered and adapted in the manuscript.

(1) I found the title was more than 20 words. The title should be no more than 20 words.

Answer: Thank you very much for your notice. Title has been updated and is 19 words stated as " Tacrolimus and mycophenolate mofetil as second-line treatment in autoimmune hepatitis: Is the evidence of sufficient quality to develop recommendations?".

(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).

Answer: Thank you very much for your notice. I would like to clarify that this manuscript is a chapter of a PhD thesis for corresponding author and supported by Graduate School of Medical Sciences, University of Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands. This research received no external funding. Mohammadreza Abdollahi is in receipt of a Ph.D. scholarship from the University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands.

(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.

Answer: Thank you very much for your notice. Original figure documents have been uploaded with the revised manuscript.

(4) I found the authors did not write the "article highlight" section. Please write the "article highlights" section at the end of the main text.

Answer: Thank you very much for your notice. Article highlights section is written at the end of the main text.

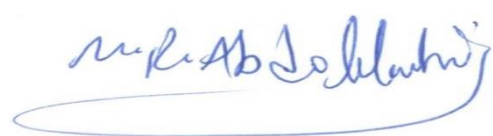
(5) the author should number the references in Arabic numerals according to the citation order in the text. The reference numbers will be superscripted in square

brackets at the end of the sentence with the citation content or after the cited author's name, with no spaces.

Answer: Thank you very much for your notice. The reference numbers have been superscripted in square brackets at the end of the sentence with the citation content, with no spaces.

Thank you again for considering our manuscript for publication in World Journal of Gastroenterology.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'm. R. Abdollahi', is enclosed within a blue oval. The signature is written in a cursive style.

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