

Dear Editor

All suggested changes here are highlighted in yellow in the text.

1. Besides the time frame, are there any other criteria that can help distinguish reactivation of latent TB from new onset TB? Did you perform blood test such as quantiferon before initiating therapy?

A: No other major criteria can help distinguish reactivation of latent TB from new onset TB. May be the report of contact with infected patients could help in rare cases. We only performed the tuberculin skin test and chest X-ray before starting therapy with biological. The quantiferon is not available for patients from public health system in Brazil.

2. The main conclusion is that either anti-TNF alone or in combination with azathioprine is associated with active TB. Looking at the last Table (table 5), the RR for anti-TNF alone is smaller than azathioprine alone, suggesting that azathioprine poses a slightly higher risk. However, when controlled by other factors, anti-TNF appears to have a stronger impact than azathioprine alone. This needs further explanation and discussion.

A: We added a comment about the relative risk of developing tuberculosis in patients using azathioprine alone and anti-TNF alone in the discussion, on page 14, line 300.

3. Is there any correlation between the development of active TB and IBD disease activity or duration of treatment?

A: Unfortunately, we did not evaluate the disease activity in the moment of TB diagnosis.

4. In the abstract, full sentence should be used in the background and aim.

A: The changes in the abstract and the aim were made.

5. There is room to improve the English language and grammar

A: The article was reviewed by the American Journal of Experts. See certificate attached.