



December 28, 2013

Dear Masataka Hirabaru,

Thank you for choosing NPG Language Editing. This is an interesting paper on alpha smooth muscle actin expression in living donor liver transplantation recipients. The first editor and I have revised the paper for article usage, phrasing, and diction. Please note that many of the changes were made to reduce wordiness and improve the flow of the paper. The paper was edited with a specific focus on improving the phrasing throughout the document.

1. We revised preposition usage to reflect common English usage; for example, "of" in the phrase "However, liver transplant recipients with no abnormalities of hepatic function" was changed to "in". Picking the correct preposition can be difficult because there are few rules about which preposition should be used in a given situation.

2. Commas help to improve the readability of a sentence. We have added and removed commas throughout the manuscript. For example, commas are necessary surrounding non-restrictive (or non-essential) phrases within a sentence, such as the commas before and after the "including" phrase in the following sentence: "In the healthy liver, HSCs are quiescent but can be activated by factors, including TGF β 1 and IFN γ , that are released by Kupffer cells (KC) and T cells after injury or stimulation".

3. When revising this paper, we took care to ensure that articles (a, an, the) were used correctly. For example, "the" comes before a noun if the noun is specific ("the α -SMA-positive area evaluated using the WinRoof image processing software program has continued to increase over time ..."; "the" was added before "WinRoof image processing software program"); if the noun is non-specific ("Liver transplantation is an established treatment for hepatic failure ..."), then do not use "the".

Comments were left in several cases where further clarification would be helpful or confirmation of the meaning of the text was necessary. Please review these comments and all our changes carefully for more detailed feedback and suggestions, as well as to ensure that the final version of the manuscript is fully accurate.

Thank you again for using our editing services; we wish you the best of luck with your submission.

Best Regards,

Sarah L.
Senior Editor
NPG Language Editing