

13th January 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 6914 R1.doc).

Title: Management of Gastric Variceal bleeding - Role of Endoscopy and Endoscopic Ultrasound

Author: Girotra M, Raghavapuram S, Abraham RR, Pahwa M, Rego RF

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 6914

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1. Format has been updated as per journal requirements:

- The revised manuscript is being submitted in Book Antiqua font in size 10, with 1.5 line spacing in between.
- Core Tip has been added (100 words).

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

(1) **Reviewer 00728151:** We appreciate your positive review and acceptance of our article. The minor concerns regarding references PMID/DOI, adding a Core-tip, and putting references in square brackets in the text have been addressed.

(2) **Reviewer 00042289:** We appreciate your positive review and acceptance of our article. The minor concerns regarding references PMID/DOI, adding a Core-tip, and putting references in square brackets in the text have been addressed.

(3) **Reviewer 00051081:** We appreciate your positive review and acceptance of our article. The minor concerns regarding references PMID/DOI, adding a Core-tip, and putting references in square brackets in the text have been addressed.

- Your concern regarding expansion of endosonography subtitle in the mini-review is well taken. We have expanded this section by discussing EUS classification of gastric varices, added a table to describe this classification, and discussed other EUS findings (besides varices) of portal hypertension and EUS features which determine risk of bleeding of varices.

- Lastly, as per your suggestion, we have included the recent article published in Scand J Gastroenterol to this section highlighting the importance of this study confirming adequacy of variceal obturation. We appreciate your valuable suggestions.

(4) **Reviewer 00182864:** We appreciate your positive review and acceptance of our article. The minor concerns regarding references PMID/DOI, adding a Core-tip, and putting references in

square brackets in the text have been addressed.

(5) **Reviewer 02581987:** We appreciate your positive review and valuable suggestions. We have addressed all your concerns, and provide a point-by-point response as detailed below:

- There is little work available on EUS classification of varices, but we have included a classification suggested by Boustiere C et al, both in text and as a table. We had earlier refrained from mentioning about this because this classification was first suggested in 1993, and has not been used frequently. Furthermore, no new classifications have been suggested since then. Nevertheless, we completely agree with your viewpoint that since this article discusses highlights of newer technologies, we need to mention this classification.

- Per your suggestion, we have discussed EUS features (size, wall thickness, red spot) which determine bleeding risk of varices. Furthermore, we have also added a statement to discuss EUS features of portal hypertension, besides presence of varices.

- Since this was a mini-review, hence we could not venture into details of risks of EUS and discussion of various probes (linear vs radial), which in fact remain the same as standard EUS procedure plus risk of intervention (EVO). But per your suggestion, we have added a statement to this effect in our revised manuscript.

- By discussing role of EUS/advanced endoscopy in much greater detail in this version of our manuscript, we feel we have justified using the term Endo-hepatology. However, as per your suggestion, the term Endo-hepatology has been omitted from the manuscript.

- Statement regarding future research prospects has been included in revised manuscript.

- We appreciate your suggestion of adding a table of quoted studies. However, this article is intended to be a mini-review which is why we have kept it a short discussion. Furthermore, the quoted studies are on wide array of topics (newer modalities of management of GVs, use of combination therapies), with different points of outcome, which will make it difficult to be discussed under one table. We have made every effort of including details of those in text. We sincerely hope that this will suffice, but if you feel strongly about addition of table, please let us know and we can work on it.

- Gastric variceal bleeding algorithm has been added to the manuscript. We appreciate the suggestion.

3. References and typesetting were corrected.

- All references have now all the authors listed, have PMID and DOI numbers (wherever available).
- Reference numbers have been added in square brackets in superscript at the end of citation content or after the cited author's name throughout the manuscript.

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

Sincerely yours,
Mohit Girotra, MD