

February 13, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed our edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 7147-review.doc).

Title: Epidemiology, demographic characteristics and prognostic predictors of ulcerative colitis.

Authors: Bruno César da Silva, Andre Castro Lyra, Raquel Rocha, Genoile Oliveira Santana

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 7147

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

- 1- The abstract was written in no more than 200 words. A summary in less than 100 words was also included.
- 2- The names and contact information of the authors were formatted according to the norms of the journal.
- 3- After carefully reading the reviewers' comments, we thank them for having contributed critical and pertinent suggestions. Below, we have listed the modifications that were implemented to address the comments of the reviewers.

- (1) Reviewer 1 (00181118): We appreciate the comments. As recommended by the reviewer, more emphasis was given to prognostic factors in the conclusion of the article. In the first part of the article, topics related to the epidemiological aspects of UC were included. We believe that this information might be useful to emphasize the importance of UC in recent decades due to the increasing incidence and prevalence of this disease. At the same time, there was a reduction in the mortality rate in this period, possibly due to therapeutic advances. We appreciate the suggestion to conduct systematic reviews of each factor that might influence the prognosis of UC. However, we believe that this approach would require the creation of multiple articles, with methodologies and selection criteria specific to each prognostic factor studied.
- (2) Reviewer 2 (00074163): We appreciate the comments. In this revised version of the manuscript, we modified the abstract and wrote the aim in a more direct manner.
- (3) Reviewer 3 (00503612): We carefully read and are grateful for the reviewer's comments. In this revised version of the manuscript, we tried to emphasize the importance of studying prognostic factors in UC patients in the core tip summary, as requested by the editor as well. The discussion about UC mortality was restructured, and more emphasis was given to the specific causes of mortality, as suggested by the reviewer. We improved the discussion of certain prognostic factors and also included more references to better review the subject.

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

Sincerely,

Raquel Rocha dos Santos

Raquel Rocha
(Corresponding author)

Escola de Nutrição – Universidade Federal da Bahia
Avenida Araújo Pinho, 32 – Canela. Salvador – Bahia – Brazil. 40110-150
Telephone: +55 (71) 3263-7705; Fax: +55 (71) 3235-9246
E-mail: raquelrocha2@yahoo.com.br