

Dear team,

Thank you for your consideration in World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery as recommended by the editorial team of World Journal of Gastroenterology. Please find attached the response to the editorial review of World Journal of Gastroenterology.

Yours Sincerely,
Dr Amritpal Dhaliwal
On behalf of all the authors

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Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade D (Fair)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Major revision

Specific Comments to Authors: Manuscript modifications and comments in the supplementary material from the authors seem insufficient. There is an ethical criterion of great importance that has not been answered adequately. That is: What is the justification for not treating patients with hepatic encephalopathy? The work does not provide data of greater interest than those already published (I mentioned it before with the corresponding references)

Thank you for your comments. The remit of this study reports the complications of TIPS including de novo hepatic encephalopathy. It does not explore Rifaximin to prevent HE post TIPSS, as the 2019 trial by Bureau et al was published after completion of recruitment for the study (2010-2017). We take on board the importance of such a question and will consider this in future work. The study provides a large sample size with use of propensity score matching to control for confounders in a real world scenario, and we believe provides a valuable contribution to the literature.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: Thank you very much for this manuscript that was well written and useful for clinicians. The authors also answer the comments from 4 reviewer clearly. I would like to suggest only one point. As there are many figure and table, it will be good to merge figure 2-5 together.

Thank you for your review. We have kept the figures separate as merging then results in a impaired clarity.