

LETTER TO THE EDITOR - ANSWERING REVIEWERS

January 4, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 7800-review.doc).

Title: Risk factors and outcome of bacterial infections in cirrhosis

Author: Tony Bruns, Henning W. Zimmermann, Andreas Stallmach

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 7800

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

1 Format has been updated

2 We thank the reviewers for their positive evaluations.

(1) Reviewer 01047326:

Really it's a very good review. I think it will be helpful for clinicians and also for medical student

(2) Reviewer 02438888:

The management of bacterial infections in patients with cirrhosis is a challenge for physicians. Untreated or uncontrolled bacterial infections can lead to multiple organ failure and are associated with high mortality. The authors reviewed the natural course of bacterial infection, patients' susceptibility, results of BT and related risk factors. They discussed the bacterial translocation, immune response in cirrhosis, systemic inflammation in cirrhosis, risk factors and prophylaxis and outcomes of BT comprehensively. This paper will improve the understanding of bacterial infections in cirrhosis and help clinical practitioner assess the risk of bacterial infection in cirrhosis and take adequate measures more reasonably.

(2) Reviewer 02447096:

The Manuscript by Tony Bruns, Henning W Zimmermann and Andreas Stallmarch presents an interesting review of the risk factors and outcome of bacterial infections in cirrhosis. They present the recent advances in understanding the pathogenic mechanisms of bacterial infections in cirrhosis and the importance of the early diagnostic. This review could be and important guide for clinical practice to identified this vulnerable population and reduce the mortality. The revision is well written.

(4) Reviewer 00070138:

The authors discussed susceptibility and impact of specific bacterial infections in cirrhosis, as well as their natural course and the identification of risk factors for decompensated cirrhosis. It is worthy to be published and will help clinicians identify patients at the highest risk that may benefit from intensified surveillance, prophylaxis and therapy.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruns', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tony Bruns, MD

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