

April 18, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find the edited manuscript in Word format enclosed (file name: 9743-review.doc).

Title: Small intestinal bacterial overgrowth in inactive Crohn's disease.
Influence of thiopurine and biologic treatment.

Author: Cristina Sánchez-Montes, Vicente Ortiz, Guillermo Bastida, Ester Rodríguez, María Yago, Belén Beltrán, Mariam Aguas, Marisa Iborra, Vicente Garrigues, Julio Ponce, Pilar Nos.

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9743

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Revisions have been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers

REVIEW 159305:

To the authors, I was interested in reading your manuscript as there are few studies in scientific literature regarding small intestinal bacterial overgrowth (SIBO). However, I have several concerns (listed below) about your manuscript and corrections should be made before it can be accepted for publication. Throughout the text there are many grammatical and spelling errors that must be corrected. I suggest that you seek a copyediting service provided by a professional English language editing company (see “Policy on manuscripts submitted by non-native speakers of English”). Better English writing will make your article read more articulately.

English writing has been revised.

1. Title page: thiopurine or thiopurines?; treatment or treatments? **These mistakes have been corrected.**

I suggest: “Small bowel bacterial overgrowth: influence of...” (This is only a suggestion). **This aspect has been changed.**

Running title is OK

2. Abstract.

a) Aim: biologic (not biologics) drugs (agents). This mistake is throughout the text; please, make corrections. **This mistake has been corrected in the manuscript.**

Please add: in patients with inactive Crohn’s disease. **It has been added.**

b) Methods: please re-write the first phrase, delete all variables (**deleted**), and make it clear that patients with inactive CD were prospectively evaluated for OB (SIBO) with a Hydrogen Glucose Breath Test (HGBT) (**changed in the text**)

c) Results: please shorten this paragraph and define it better to keep the readers’ attention (**changed in the text**).

d) Conclusion: “Immunosuppressant ...(see the title and aim!) biologic, not biologics! **It has been corrected in the manuscript.**

3. Core tip: should be re-written: -Second phrase: “.acquiring infections”- should be included in first phrase. -Third phrase: please delete it, as there

are such studies! -Last phrase: is confused: please improve the English grammar. (changed in the text)

Introduction: General: many grammar and spelling wishes (e.g., “put it at”, “contracting infections” etc.) (corrected) First paragraph should be deleted Second paragraph: please use hydrogen glucose breath test and the abbreviation HGBT throughout the text (corrected). Last paragraph: please delete “based on the above” (corrected).

Methods: This section should be rewritten. -Please mention the name of your hospital and months of the year (e.g. January 2004 to October 2010) (added)-You should clearly define inclusion and exclusion criteria (added) . Second paragraph, last phrase: please delete “As stated in several papers” (corrected) -Last paragraph is Statistical analysis Ethical: please mention if the patients gave a written consent (added).

Results: delete the first phrase, and just mention that the baseline characteristics of the patients are summarized in Table 1 (modified). Again, English needs to be improved, otherwise the presentation of the results is confusing -please specify the number of patients on azathioprine and mercaptopurine (added). Last paragraph, first line: the instead of that (we do not understand this comment).

Discussion: This section should be re-written -First paragraph, 3rd phrase: “Nevertheless, there are no studies...” is in contradiction with “other published studies”! Please clarify. (We mean that there are studies about SIBO and Crohn's disease but they do not study the relationship with the immunosuppressant and biological treatment) -Please delete, “In any case” (page 9, last lines) and “In this sense..” (page 10, second paragraph – (both deleted).

Figures: Figure 1 (is it the figure 2). Bacterial overgrowth. It is useless and should be deleted (The second is the legend of Figure. The rules were asked separately). Finally, both in text and Fig. 1 you used the word “swelling”. Do you mean abdominal distension? (Yes, and this has been modified).

REVIEW 70056:

Dear authors, In this manuscript “Bacterial overgrowth in inactive Crohn's disease. Influence of thiopurine and biologic treatment”, the team of Dr. Sánchez-Montes’ team studied the state of bacterial overgrowth on the

different treatments. The authors should pay attention to some comments listed below:

1. The authors should clarify the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the patients in the study. [This has been specified in the previous review.](#)
2. The subtitle, “Result of the breath test was assessed as positive or negative.” needs modification. [It has been deleted. This has been explained in the section on materials and methods.](#)

REVIEW 69458:

This study investigated the influence of thiopurines and biologic drugs on the presence of bacterial overgrowth. Major comments: 1. The authors refer only to patients’ symptoms related to BO and there is no information given on the long-term outcome of their CD related to BO. Were there any clinical consequences of BO on the course of their disease such as flares, adverse events, etc.? [This aspect has not been evaluated because it is not the aim of this study.](#)

2. How was the BO treated? Did the authors use antibiotics such as rifaximin, metronidazole or ciprofloxacin? Were the symptoms of BO cured? [This aspect has not been evaluated because it is not the aim of this study.](#)

3. There is no data given regarding the possible biological consequences of BO. Were there any differences in the levels of albumin, Fe, Mg, Ca, etc. between patients with and without BO? [These parameters have not been collected.](#)

Minor comments: 1. The p values in tables 2 and 3 must be given in numbers.

[They are not specified to suit the requirements of the journal.](#)

2. References and typesetting were corrected.

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

Sincerely yours,

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