

ANSWERING REVIEWERS LETTER



May 30, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 11054-edited-revised.docx).

Title: Isotretinoin and Ulcerative colitis. A case report and review of the literature.

Author: Ioannis Papaconstantinou, Anastasios Stefanopoulos, Aspasia Papailia, Christos Zeglinas, Ioannis Georgopoulos, Spyridon Michopoulos

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 11054

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

1 Format has been updated

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

(1) Reviewer No 503405 :

In order to answer the comments of the reviewer a new histological figure was added in the reviewed manuscript. The new figure (image 2) is a histopathological image of the surgical specimen (the removed colon) and confirms once more the diagnosis of ulcerative colitis (UC) suggested by the endoscopy biopsies. Also in the reviewed article we explain that our patient had stopped the use of heroin several months before the first severe episode of UC which occurred while being under treatment with isotretinoin. After that episode he relapsed in his addiction and made use of heroin again. At the time of the second severe episode he was in an anti-addiction program under treatment with methadone for some months. Thus is hard to associate directly heroin use to the pathogenesis of the colitis.

Furthermore we reviewed thoroughly the literature and found no clear association between heroin and ischemic colitis as the reviewer suggests. This association is well described in cases of cocaine abuse and other opioid drugs. (Dettmeyer R1, Friedrich K, Schmidt P, Madea B. Heroin-associated myocardial damages--conventional and immunohistochemical investigations. *Forensic Sci Int.* 2009 May 30;187(1-3):42-6. and its references, Ischaemic colitis and drug abuse. *Br Med J* 1977; 2 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.2.6100.1478-b>) Also according to literature, toxic colitis (or toxic megacolon) is a medical situation that usually occurs spontaneously in the course of very severe colitis or sometimes precipitated by the use of opioid drugs. That's not our case and as explained above the episode occurred far from the use of drugs.

(2) Reviewer No 39337: Made no revision suggestions. Proposed priority publishing.

(3) Reviewer No 58269: Suggested minor language polishing. The manuscript's language was reviewed by the editors and minor language errors were corrected. Also was reviewed and checked for errors by an English native speaker.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

Sincerely yours,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Georgopoulos', with a horizontal line underneath.