

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

November 29, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 13606-review.docx).

**Title:** Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis – the clinical challenge of a leaky gut and a cirrhotic liver

**Author:** Philipp Lutz, Hans Dieter Nischalke, Christian P Strassburg, Ulrich Spengler

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Hepatology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 13606

We are grateful for the possibility to improve the attached manuscript according to the suggestions of the reviewers. We hope that you will find it suitable for publication in the World Journal of Hepatology with these amendments.

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

Reviewer 02447059:

Major comments

*The author need to summarize some data in table describing different studies risk factors, type of treatment used, response to that treatment and recurrence rate, so that the reader can compare easily different regimens*

Three tables were included that give detailed information on risk factors for SBP (table 1), different types of treatment with response to it (table 2) and efficacy of different prophylactic approaches (table 3).

*The authors mentioned an ongoing clinical trial for primary antibiotic prophylaxis with quinolones. If interim results are available, please describe and clinical trial registration number is important to cite*

The registration number of the trial mentioned was included into the section “prophylaxis of SBP”.

So far, no interim results have been published.

#### Minor comments

*Abbreviations in page 1, LBP and LPS full name are mismatched*

The mismatch of the abbreviations LPS and LBP in the section “abbreviations” was corrected.

*Page 2, introduction section, line 8, it is not appropriate to use "our" when citing others work "ref 10"*

The expression containing “our” in the section “introduction” did not refer to research conducted by others but to the means of the medical community as such to fight bacterial infections. It was changed to a form that is not equivocal.

*Few mistyped words and missed spaces needs to be revised carefully*

Mistyping was corrected.

#### Reviewer 02861012:

*It should be mentioned the incidence rate of SBP in patients with liver cirrhosis and the rate of mortality of these patients.*

Incidence and mortality rates were included in the first paragraph of the section “introduction”

*Bacteria from other sources are also found in ascites. How much do these bacteria contribute to SBP.*

Unfortunately, it is not known how much bacteria from extra-intestinal source contribute to SBP.

This was described in the section “The leaky gut”, paragraph 3

*Genetic predisposition. Authors alluded that SBP is associated with polymorphisms in NOD2, TLR2 and MCP1. This part should be expanded more; can these polymorphisms be used diagnostically?*

The part on genetic polymorphisms was extended in the second paragraph of the section: “the

cirrhotic liver”.

Reviewer 02462024:

*Please present different antibiotic treatment and prophylaxis regimens in tabulated form for easier comparison*  
Randomized controlled trials for antibiotic treatment and prophylaxis of SBP were included as table 2 and table 3 (see also to answer to the first major comment of reviewer 02447059)

*Please elaborate on role of FXR*

The role of FXR was described in more detail in the last paragraph of the section “the leaky gut”.

*There are some terms/expressions that are a little unusual- please polish*

Language was polished.

**Reviewer 76140:**  
**no changes suggested**

**Thank you again for considering our manuscript for publication in the World Journal of Hepatology.**

Yours sincerely,

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