

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

February 14, 2015

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 16132-review.doc).

Title: Efficacy of poly-unsaturated fatty acid therapy on patients with nonalcoholic steatohepatitis

Author: Yun-hua Li, Lu-hua Yang, Kai-Hui Sha, Tong-Gang Liu, Li-Guo Zhang and Xian-Xian Liu

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 16132

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) I have some minor criticism. The paper should be edited by a native speaker and typos should be corrected.

Answer: Many thanks for reviewer No.1's suggestion, and we have extensively revised our paper with the help of native English speaker.

(2) The ESPS Manuscript NO: 16132 entitled "Efficacy of poly-unsaturated fatty acid therapy on patients with nonalcoholic steatohepatitis" by Yun-hua Li et al. sent to World Journal Gastroenterology for publication is an interesting, valuable and clearly written paper concerning the application of poly-unsaturated fatty acid (PUFA) in the treatment of dyslipidemia in patients with nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH). The Authors wanted to find out whether PUFA is beneficial for improving NASH. The study objective is strongly justified as it is assumed that dyslipidemia resulting from over-consumption of cholesterol and triglycerides is a major risk factor for this pathology. The study was performed on a wide group of 78 patients pathologically diagnosed as NASH. All they were enrolled and were randomly assigned into the control group and PUFA therapy group. The study showed that the 6-month PUFA consumption, as compared to the control group, caused a significant improvement both in the laboratory parameters of liver function (liver enzymes - serum levels of ALT and AST, lipid profiles, markers of inflammation and oxidation, fibrosis parameters of type IV collagen and pro-collagen type III pro-peptide) as well as in the histological indices of liver tissue damage assessed in biopsy material (steatosis grade, necroinflammatory grade, fibrosis stage, and ballooning score). As a pathologist I was particularly interested in the observation that the 6 month' PUFA therapy, as compared to the control group, markedly decreased collagen fibroplasia process, which was reflected by laboratory examination and histological evaluation (fibrosis stage was significantly declined). In the future, this may have major clinical implications as potential validation of antifibrotic therapies in patients with this pathology. This however requires further in-depth morphological and clinical investigations. I fully agree with the Author's opinion contained in the second part of the conclusion, i.e. "Future study is warranted to investigate whether long-term consumption of PUFA could completely reverse NASH and reduce the incidence of hepatic failure". I think that the manuscript would be more convincing and easier to understand by a potential reader if it contained photographic documentation depicting the regression of

morphological lesions, apart from statistically elaborated histopathological data included in Table 3. However, it does not diminish the value of the current manuscript, although in the future such documentation would be a valuable supplement to the presented laboratory parameters. Although the obtained results should be treated with caution and as preliminary, they may have potential clinical or cognitive implications. They can be used as a comparative material for similar research into long-term therapy for NASH carried out by other research Centers. I think that the manuscript needs revising by a native English editor or investigator prior to re-submission. In my opinion, the manuscript can be accepted with minor revision. The paper is up-to-date and worth publishing.

Answer: We appreciate very much for reviewer No.2's good comments on our paper, and we have revised our paper's writing with the help of native English speaker.

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 be 'Yunhua Li', written in a cursive style.

Department of Infectious Diseases,
Binzhou Medical University Hospital,
Binzhou, Shandong 256603,
China
E-mail: YunhuaLi123@126.com