

Answers to reviewers comments

March 20, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 16447-review.doc).

Title: Upper gastrointestinal bleeding in Scotland 2000-2010: Improved outcomes but a significant weekend effect

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

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

1. Format has been updated throughout as per requirements and comments by the editor.

2. Revision has been made as follows according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) Reviewer 02979695 comments

- a) This is the first study from Scotland demonstrating weekend effect for UGIB. We have compared this study with previous data in Discussion to highlight how it adds to current literature.
- b) We have clarified that deprivation means social deprivation in introduction.
- c) A description of Y axis has been added to the figures where it was absent.
- d) There was a mismatch between figure legends and figures, it has now been corrected.

(2) Reviewer 03219715

- a) Reference has been added for accuracy of clinical coding data to the manuscript. We have also changed the year of reference audit to 2010-2011, given that will be more relevant to this data.

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Hospital-Care/Publications/2012-05-08/Assessment-of-SMR01Data-2010-2011-ScotlandReport.pdf>. Accessed March 2015

b) Further explanation of why least deprived had higher mortality has been added in discussion. We think one plausible explanation for these findings could be the possibility that patients in most deprived quintile presented with UGIB of lesser severity (such as gastritis or Mallory Weiss bleeding after acute alcohol intoxication) thereby resulting in consistently higher number of admissions but lower mortality. On the other hand, patients in least deprived category had fewer episodes of minor UGIB secondary to gastritis and Mallory Weiss bleeding after alcohol intoxication resulting in fewer admissions. It is possible that majority presentations in this category were with higher severity of UGIB, thereby increasing overall mortality.

- c) We have added a table with breakdown of aetiology of bleeding. Supplementary table 1.
- d) Table 2 describes overall number of admissions and mortality for each year, not divided into weekend and weekday admissions. Mean age data is divided into weekend and weekday admission, hence was not added to the table and presented in results section instead.
- e) Figures were mixed up which we have now corrected.
- f) We have added a table with lengths of stay in numerical form. Supplementary table 2.

3. References and typesetting were corrected

4. We are happy with core tip as presented at the end of abstract. However, we will provide an audio core tip if essential.

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

Sincerely

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