

May 12, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 17446-edited.doc).

**Title:** Histological healing after induction therapy with infliximab in children with ulcerative colitis

**Author:** Anna Wiernicka, Sylwia Szymańska, Joanna Cielecka-Kuszyk, Maciej Dądalski and Jarosław Kierkuś

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 17446

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 and all changes were highlighted in the manuscript.

**Reviewer 03261349**

**Comment:**

The paper by Wiernicka et al entitled "Histological healing after induction therapy with infliximab in children with ulcerative colitis" is a study analyzing the clinical, endoscopic and histological response to infliximab induction therapy in a group of 16 pediatric patients. Despite the topic has been already extensively explored, the paper is well written and the design of the study is accurate and well detailed.

**Reply:** Thank you very much for your comment.

**Main comments:**

1. A minor linguistic revision is needed.

**Reply:** The manuscript has been revised. Language has been polished.

2. Data about the duration of the disease are lacking.

**Reply:** The mean duration of the disease before IFX therapy was  $30.3 \pm 40.2$  months (range 1-139 months). It has been reported in the manuscript in the Result section (manuscript paragraph 3.1 Clinical characteristic).

3. In Table 2 p values should be reported.

**Reply:** The p value ( $p=0.0033$ ) has been added in Table 2, this information has been also reported in the manuscript (paragraph 3.3 Mucosal healing).

4. Line 123: "Eleven patients did not respond to cyclosporine therapy before IFX ... Only one child (6.25%) received cyclosporine". This sentence is contradictory and should be better explained.

**Reply:** This sentence has been corrected. Appropriate changes are highlighted in the manuscript.

5. Line 153: although not statistically significant, Spearman's rho value should be reported.

**Reply:** According to the suggestion of the Reviewer the Spearman's rho values has been reported. Appropriate changes are highlighted in the manuscript.

6. Line 262: " in our research the Baron score of 2 and 3 showed a good correlation with histology results (18/23 (78.2%) with a Geboes Index  $\geq 3$ ). Authors are not allowed to draw this conclusion, since p is not significant. This sentence needs to be rephrased.

**Reply:** The sentence has been rephrased according to the suggestion of the Reviewer.

7. Usually, the infliximab induction phase is not sufficient to reach mucosal healing. Indeed, in their series, Authors found histological remission only in 18.75% of cases. Clinical remission, reached by the 68.75%, is not a satisfactory target for IBD, since the disease could still be active at histology. This point should be discussed in the paragraph "potential limitations" at lines 270 and following.

**Reply:** The paragraph "potential limitation" has been expanded with data suggested by the Reviewer.

#### Reviewer 03256483

##### **Comments:**

General - The only novelty of the work is that it is performed in pediatric patient population. The manuscript reads well. Title and Abstract - are appropriate and well reflective of the work. Methods - The sample size is small and reduces the power of the study in drawing any meaningful conclusions. Results - Data is presented well the form of tables Discussion - It needs to be shortened and required to be more focussed. Conclusions are valid and based on the results

**Reply:** Thank you very much for your comment. We agree that the limitation of the study is small sample size, it has been also discussed in the manuscript. Discussion paragraph as suggested by the Reviewer has been shortened, focused on histological healing after IFX induction therapy and correlation between clinical, endoscopic and histological parameters. Appropriate changes are highlighted in the manuscript.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,



Anna Wiernicka, MD

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