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8226 Regency Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA

Telephone: +1-925-223-8242 Fax: +1-925-223-8243

E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com <http://www.wjgnet.com>

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Response to the Reviewer's comments,

The authors thank the reviewer for the assessment. We emphasize that all suggestions have been accepted.

The Discussion topics were revised, and we added a statement asserting that "the investigation of patients with cirrhosis by the West Haven test is not sufficient to identify subclinical forms of encephalopathy" in the Discussion. The work by **Citro V et al**, "Mental status impairment in patients with West Haven grade zero hepatic encephalopathy: the role of HCV infection". *J Gastroenterol* 2007; **42**:79-82, was added to the Discussion, and the Trail Making Test was also discussed. The FAB evaluation data based on the cirrhosis etiology were added to the Results section, with an emphasis on the discussion of the outcome in patients with HCV-related cirrhosis. We added the statement "Detecting minimal hepatic encephalopathy in patients with cirrhosis may help improve their quality of life". The table and figure legends were re-written.

Thank you again for the contribution, and we look forward to receiving your feedback.

Sincerely,

Karina Zamprogno de Souza and Maria da Penha Zago Gomes.