

Palermo, 13 December 2016

To the Editor,
World Journal of Gastroenterology

RE: Manuscript Number: 30267, entitled "One step minilaparotomy-assisted transmesenteric portal vein recanalization combined with transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt placement. A novel surgical proposal in pediatrics".

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your letter concerning the review of our manuscript. As requested, we answered the points raised by the Reviewers. We also revised the corresponding author's address, due to her transfer to a new institution. We minimally revised the title for clarity. We hope that the manuscript is now acceptable for publication in the World Journal of Gastroenterology.

Looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience, we thank you very much in advance for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,
Gloria Pelizzo

Reviewer 1

The MAT + TIPS (one step) is a relevant procedure, a therapeutic option in patients with portal vein thrombosis. In the pediatric population, this procedure could be used as the exception therapy in patients with contraindication to perform mesorex bypass. One question: - Why didn't you perform mesorex bypass in this patient? This case report presents a rare method of treatment in children, with clinical relevance.

This method is a minimally invasive procedure. Moreover, in selected cases, it is an additional perspective treatment when the mesorex procedure is risky: as is the case when reaching the mesenteric vein for a left portal shunt is technically difficult, or when the patient is unstable or currently bleeding. In these cases this procedure can serve as a bridge, allowing prompt control of bleeding, the possible embolization of the variceal site and delay a by-pass procedure, when a portal recanalization is not feasible.

In our case, the patient underwent an endoscopic procedure to treat a hemorrhagic episode. The bleeding was stopped, but the patient remained severely hypotensive. Therefore, MAT+TIPS was considered since it is a minimally invasive procedure. We modified the text for clarity (page 6, line 13).