

21/12/2016

Professors Damian Garcia-Olmo, Stephen Strom and Andrzej Tarnawski

Editors-in-Chief

World Journal of Gastroenterology

Dear Professors Garcia-Olmo, Strom and Tarnawski,

Thank you for considering publication of our manuscript entitled “Frailty is independently associated with increased hospitalisation days in patients on the liver transplant waitlist” in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. The publication ID is 03011680, as per the accepted publication invitation.

I have made the changes as suggested by the reviewers and editor, and resubmitted the manuscript accordingly. The following changes have been outline in italics below:

1-The rationale and use of statistical tests should be explained briefly to non-expert reader. The reader should understand the importance and reason of choice of statistical tests because frailty is found to be an independent risk factor not related MELD and low albumin which are reliable surrogate markers of cirrhosis severity.

*The methods section has been expanded to improve the explanation of statistical testing in the multivariable model*

2- The tables can be supported with extra figures

*We considered adding additional figures but do not feel they would add to the presentation of the data.*

3-One of the hypothesis of the authors is possibility of frailty being an early phenotype of generalized sarcopenia. I believe this is an important hypothesis and this should be discussed more in the discussion section.

*It is currently not well defined whether or not frailty progresses to sarcopenia in this population or not, and thus this is purely a hypothesis at this stage. It would be interesting to follow a cohort longitudinally to assess whether or not this is the case. The manuscript has been updated accordingly*

Yours sincerely

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