

To: Lian-Sheng Ma, President and Company Editor-in-Chief
World Journal of Gastroenterology
Manuscript NO.: 43414

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

We would like to thank you for the careful evaluation of our study. Please find our response to the reviewers point by point below. We hope that you will find our paper suitable for publication.

Answers to Reviewer #1:

- The manuscript by Dobszai and colleagues represents a timely contribution to the question how the body mass index (BMI) is influencing the outcome of acute pancreatitis (AP). They conducted a meta-analysis by following the strict rules how to execute such endeavour. The study is flawless from a technical point of view, e.g. by obeying to PRISMA and registration with PROSPERO. As to the discussion, I would like the authors to make reference to the current IAP/APA guidelines on acute pancreatitis.

Answer: Thank you for your positive comments. You are right, we agree that the guidelines should be included in the references.

ACTION: We have cited it in the introduction as suggested. (Page 6, Line 154)

Answers to Reviewer #2:

General comments: The authors made meta-analysis on the relation between body-mass index and severity/mortality in acute pancreatitis. They found that a BMI above 25 increases the risk of severe AP, while a BMI > 30 raises the risk of mortality and that a BMI < 18.5 carries an almost two times higher risk of mortality in AP. The manuscript is well written. Specific comments: Figures 1, 2, and 3. Are these figures necessary?

Answer: Thank you for your comments. Indeed, for understanding the results and conclusions of the paper Figures 1-3 are not crucially needed. Therefore we omitted the original Figure 1 from the paper. However, we found in our practice that if some introductory figures are well designed, presenters often use them in conferences to highlight the importance of the topic. It gives high visibility to the paper which is good for the topic, the authors and the journal as well. Therefore, we would like to keep Fig 2-3 as they are.

ACTION: Figure 1 is deleted as suggested.

Answers to the Editor:

Answer: Thank you for your suggestions.

We would like to ensure you that "*Dalma Dobszai, Péter Mátrai, Zoltán Gyöngyi, Mária Matuz et al. "Body-mass index correlates with severity and mortality in acute pancreatitis: a meta-analysis", Pancreatology, 2018"* found in the crosscheck report is just published as abstract.

ACTION: The paper has been revised as suggested.

On behalf of the authors,

Péter Hegyi