



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 46380

Title: Performance of tacrolimus in hospitalized patients with steroid-refractory acute severe ulcerative colitis

Reviewer’s code: 00503322

Reviewer’s country: United Kingdom

Science editor: Jia-Ping Yan

Date sent for review: 2019-02-17

Date reviewed: 2019-02-17

Review time: 2 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer’s expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors have presented their experience of managing steroid -refractory inflammatory bowel disease with tacrolimus. Although the data is collected retrospectively, the experience presented is valuable and adds information to the



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existing body of knowledge on the subject. The whole subject is dealt with in extensive detail and is worth considering for publication.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 46380

Title: Performance of tacrolimus in hospitalized patients with steroid-refractory acute severe ulcerative colitis

Reviewer’s code: 00505564

Reviewer’s country: United States

Science editor: Jia-Ping Yan

Date sent for review: 2019-02-17

Date reviewed: 2019-02-17

Review time: 3 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer’s expertise on the topic of the manuscript:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> General
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Hoffmann et al. study was reviewed and approved by the IRB (institutional Ethics Committee) but the requirement for informed consent was waived due to the retrospective nature of the study. The authors evaluated the short and long-term



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outcomes of tacrolimus therapy in adult inpatients with steroid-refractory acute severe ulcerative colitis (UC). They conducted a retrospective monocentric study enrolling 22 patients at a tertiary care center for the treatment of IBD at the Heidelberg University Hospital with acute severe UC, 2007- 2018, and who received oral or intravenous tacrolimus for steroid-refractory disease were eligibly included. Baseline characteristics and data on the disease courses were retrieved from entirely computerized patient charts (chart-review). The key study endpoints were clinical response to tacrolimus therapy, colectomy rate, time to colectomy and the occurrence of side effects. The observational results of the study on short-term outcome of tacrolimus in steroid-refractory acute severe UC was found beneficial, and side effects were rare. They concluded that tacrolimus therapy appears to be a viable option for short-term treatment of steroid-refractory acute severe UC besides ciclosporin and anti-tumor necrosis factor α treatment. This study is interesting, informative and of educational values to GI clinicians and surgeons. The statistical calculus analysis is clear. The Tables and Figures are easy to follow in correspondence with the body write up. The language is clear.

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[] Plagiarism

[Y] No



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 46380

Title: Performance of tacrolimus in hospitalized patients with steroid-refractory acute severe ulcerative colitis

Reviewer's code: 02566971

Reviewer's country: China

Science editor: Jia-Ping Yan

Date sent for review: 2019-02-17

Date reviewed: 2019-02-19

Review time: 1 Hour, 2 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the topic of the manuscript:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> General
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

1)"The primary study end point was clinical response to tacrolimus salvage therapy, indicated by the possibility to successfully discharge the patient from the hospital. Secondary endpoints were clinical response under tacrolimus therapy, colectomy rate,



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time to colectomy, and the occurrence of side effects." Not only the primary and secondary endpoints were overlapping, but the primary end-point is not optimal. 2)Is this their standard protocol to use FK as the first-line rescue medicatio for steroid-resistant acute severe UC? Looks like there was no pilot study. What's the rational? Does CsA have worse side-effects? 3)Among the 22 patients, 3 were on Infliximab, vedolizumab, and thiopurine, respectively upon admission. Should these 3 patients be excluded? I am wondering if this will affect the overall results. 4)"Clinical response was defined as a significant decrease of stool frequency, rectal bleeding, and plasma CRP concentration.....". This is too arbitrary. Are there any quantitative parameters to define "significant decrease"? 5)"The decisions to start salvage therapy with tacrolimus, and whether oral versus intravenous treatment would be used, were made on a per-case basis by the treating physicians' team." This is also confusing. Is the desicion to start, switch or stop FK treatment simply based upon clinical experience? Is there any objective criterion? 6)The whole treatment process an dfollow-up of individual patient is very complex and I do suggest the authors set up a new table and provide with detailed information.

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No