

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



August 25, 2012

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 2429-review.doc).

Title: Mucosal healing and Deep Remission: What does it mean?

Author: Gerhard Rogler; Stephan Vavricka; Alain Schoepfer; Peter L. Lakatos

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 4687

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) Reviewer 1 requested no changes

(2) Reviewer 2 discussed the value of the suggested classification.

He wrote: "I am afraid that the proposed CBEHI classification will only be a descriptive one and will not allow us to better compare outcomes of trial. In addition, it is not clear on which definition of mucosal healing or histology healing it will be based on. The purpose of this article is to highlight the disagreement on those definition, yet the proposed classification is based on it." The suggested classification certainly is descriptive, but a good description may be more as what we have now. Furthermore we stated: "*There should be standards on the definition of mucosal healing for clinical studies. It needs to be discussed – and finally decided – whether endoscopic mucosal healing, histologic mucosal healing or a combination of both can be standardized. Once agreement on definitions has been achieved, a given patient could be assessed by a –hopefully– simple binary coded tool that is oriented according to the TNM classification of oncology.*"

With respect to this argument we are clearly in line with the reviewer: We first need to achieve consent on the definitions before a new classification is of use. We hope that this clarifies the open point.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

Gerhard Rogler

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