

To the Editor

World Journal of Gastroenterology

We are pleased that the editorial team and reviewers found merits in our study and have given us the opportunity to respond to their concerns and to revise the manuscript. We have attempted to deal with all the issues/questions raised by the reviewers and editors and we hope that the revised manuscript is now suitable for publication for publication in World Journal of Gastroenterology.

Reviewer 1. *In this review, the authors reviewed the correlation of sarcopenia and minimal hepatic encephalopathy (MHE) in liver cirrhosis. They assessed the related researches and conclude that some of the clinical effects attributed until now to the presence of MHE may be partially or totally explained by the contemporary presence of sarcopenia. The review was well written, and here I have some minor concerns: 1. Since sarcopenia is mainly due to the malnutrition in liver cirrhotic patients, are there any researches reporting that nutritional treatment can improve the sarcopenia and, in a way, improve the MHE? 2. As mentioned by the author, hyperammonemia could be associated with sarcopenia and MHE, did the studies reviewed in Table 1 tested the ammonia level of the patients? does the sarcopenia have a correlation with hyperammonemia?*

Response to Reviewer 1. We thank the reviewer for the suggestion. The role of nutrition and physical exercise is now added in the manuscript as well as in Table 1 is summarized the role of ammonia.

Reviewer 2. *This is an interesting and updated review on the topic of "Sarcopenia and cognitive impairment among patients with minimal hepatic encephalopathy (MHE) and liver cirrhosis". I have no special comments on the detailed review of the relevant study addressing this issue. However, I would recommend the authors add one latest research article (Tapper EB, Derstine B, Baki J, Su GL. Dig Dis Sci. 2019 Jul 10.), and also add and compare with one latest review on this issue (Lattanzi B, D'Ambrosio D, Merli M. J Clin Exp Hepatol. 2019 Jan-Feb;9(1):125-130.).*

Response to Reviewer 2. We thank the reviewer for the suggestion. We have added the studies in specific sections.

Reviewer 3. *This review by Silvia Nardelli et al extensively summarized the literatures about the relationship between sarcopenia and cognitive impairment in cirrhotic patients. The authors*

concluded that the severity and prevalence of sarcopenia acts as prognostic factor correlates and is related to several complications of cirrhosis; the amelioration of nutritional status may be a possible goal to decrease the prevalence of minimal hepatic encephalopathy (MHE) and its clinical consequences. This review is correctly written and instructive. Major comment: The authors should clearly definite the concept of minimal hepatic encephalopathy (MHE) including the clinical manifestations and diagnostic criteria. Other comment: These are some writing errors, for example, in table 1. “handgrip strenght”.

Response to Reviewer 3. We thank the reviewer for the promising suggestion to add a paragraph on definite the concept of minimal hepatic encephalopathy (MHE) including the clinical manifestations and diagnostic criteria. We correct also the typing errors.

Kind regards,

Dr L. Ridola

08 August 2019