

March 18, 2014

Dear Editor, Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 7590-review.doc).

Title: Continued Evidence for Safety of ERCP during Pregnancy

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 7590

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

1) The paper has been updated in several ways. The Title was improved. The abstract now meets the required format. Grammar and spelling have been improved throughout the article. "Core tip" as well "Comments" section have been added.

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

(1) PPD in table 1 was changed to Tuberculosis and Gerd changed to GERD.

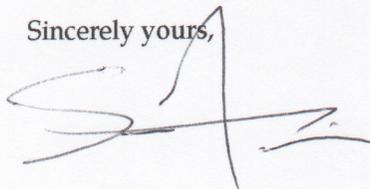
(2) Zosyn in table 2 changed to piperacillin / tazobactam

3) In regards to the age brackets comment which came up in two of the reviewers, we decided to keep the data as we initially presented and offer more explanation as to why we have keep it this way. Prior studies in safety of ERCP in pregnancy have presented data in regards to the trimester when the intervention was performed. We decided to present the data broken down in different age brackets. We chose to do this based on prior studies published in OB/GYN articles dividing based on age. More recently, Vaughan D *et al* published their findings in the BJOG 2014 entitled "Delivery Outcomes for nulliparous women at the extremes of maternal age-a cohort study." In this study they broke patient data into age brackets ≤ 17 years, 18-19 years, 20-34 years, 35-39 years and women aged ≥ 40 years. They were able to find extremes of age conferred different risk factors, younger more towards pre-term birth and older had increased rates of c-section and offspring requiring NICU admission. We wanted to ask if age conferred any additional risk when undergoing ERCP during pregnancy. The number of patients in our study was limited, however we wanted to try to have 3 different age brackets with similar numbers and given how prior studies have divided patients by age is why we chose; 18-21, 22-30, and greater than 30 years of age.

4) The reference format was updated to the standards for WJGE.

Thank you again for considering our paper for publication in the *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*.

Sincerely yours,



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