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March 03, 2014

Dear Editor,

Enclosed please find the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 9587-review.doc).

Title: ECLIA method underestimates cortisol suppression in UC patients treated with oral prednisone.

Author: Francesco Manguso, Raffaele Bennato, Giovanni Lombardi, Assunta Viola, Elisabetta Riccio & Livio Cipolletta

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9587

To Reviewer 1

We thank Reviewer 1 for his/her helpful comments. We agree that for some scientific researches, which focus on the depression effect of glucocorticosteroid on HPA axis in UC patients, this study may provide useful information.

To Reviewer 2

We agree with Reviewer 2 that our article has methodological interest for determining the blood cortisol level, but it has poor impact in the guidance of UC treatment using glucocorticosteroids. Indeed, the purpose of the study was to evidence a possible pitfall of ECLIA cortisol assay method to evidence an HPA axis suppression in UC patient under treatment with prednisone. This observation could be useful as a warning in large-scale clinical trials where HPA axis suppression is a safety endpoint.

To the Editor

We think that Evidence-Based Medicine should be the best descriptor for the Columns of this manuscript.

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

- 1 Title was shortened (12 words)
- 2 Postcode was added
- 3 Author contributions was improved
4. The title of the corresponding author was added (MD, PhD)
5. Fax number was provided
6. The Aim of the abstract was modified as suggested
7. Key words were modified according to MeSH descriptors
8. Core Tip was improved
9. We provided all authors abbreviation names and manuscript title



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- 10. We revised the format of references in the text
- 11. References were corrected by adding the DOI code except for ref. #8.
- 12. Comments section was added
- 13. Figure 1, 2 and 3: the list of abbreviation was added

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

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