

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



June 11, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 10599-revision.doc).

Title: The prognosis of ulcerative colitis differs between patients with complete and partial mucosal healing, which can be predicted from the platelet count

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 10599

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 reviewers. Point-by-point responses were shown below.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Point-by-point response to the Reviewer 1 (No. 02510223):

According to the reviewer's suggestion, we renew the references. We appreciate very much your decision of acceptance of this article.

Point-by-point response to the Reviewer 2 (No. 02446783):

Major remarks

(1) Regarding the risk of hospitalization, need for rescue corticosteroids, and interventions in UC patients with MES 0 vs. 1.

According to the reviewer's suggestion, we added the risk of hospitalization and need for rescue corticosteroids in UC patients with MES 0 vs. 1 to the Result section. No patients underwent intervention other than colectomy.

Result section:

Difference in prognosis of UC patients according to the MES

...MES 2: HR, 31.16; 95% CI, 12.80-78.83; $p < 0.0001$). In addition, the risk of hospitalization and the need for rescue corticosteroids were also higher in patients with MES 1 than those with MES 0 (HR, 10.48; 95% CI, 1.90-195.22; $p = 0.0044$, and HR, 27.31; 5.69-490.06; $p < 0.0001$, respectively). These results suggest that patients who achieved complete mucosal healing (MES 0) were much less likely to suffer a relapse than those who achieved only partial mucosal healing (MES 1), as well as those with endoscopic active inflammation (MES 2). The risk of colectomy or occurrence of dysplasia/cancer did not differ significantly among patients with each MES (data not shown).

(2) Regarding predictors of MES 0/1 at 2nd colonoscopy.

According to the reviewer's suggestion, we analyzed the predictors of MES0/1 at 2nd colonoscopy, adding the following parameters: extent of disease, age of onset of disease and disease duration. The results were added to the Result section and Table 5.

Result section:

Parameters predicting change of mucosal status from complete mucosal healing to partial mucosal healing

.... Table 5 shows the differences in characteristics at the first colonoscopy and hematological variables between the first and the second colonoscopies...

Point-by-point response to the Reviewer 3 (No. 01798570):**Minor remarks**

As the reviewer indicated, the specificity and sensitivity of PLT to complete mucosal healing were relatively low. Hence, we analyzed the difference in PLT in patients who underwent 2 colonoscopies during maintenance of clinical remission, and demonstrated that the difference in PLT was significantly greater in patients of whom mucosal status changed from MES 0 to MES 1 than in those who maintained MES 0. These results are shown in the last part of the Results section.

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

Sincerely yours,

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