

June 20, 2015

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Re: Manuscript ID 18750- " Pregnancy and Inflammatory Bowel Diseases: Current Perspectives, Risks and Patient Management."

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 18750.doc).

**Title:** Pregnancy and Inflammatory Bowel Diseases: Current Perspectives, Risks and Patient Management.

**Author:** Pegah Hosseini-Carroll, Monica Mutyala, Abhishek Seth, Shaheen Nageeb, Demiana Soliman, Moheb Boktor, Ankur Sheth, Jonathon Chapman, James Morris, Paul Jordan, Kenneth Manas, Felix Becker, Jonathan Alexander

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 18750

**Manuscript Type:** Review

We appreciate the reviewer's comments and welcome the opportunity to address these queries and concerns in our current manuscript. Based on suggestions in the reviews, we have now addressed all reviewers' comments and editorial requests.

1. The format has been updated
2. All references and typesetting were corrected
3. All tables and figures have been updated according to the suggestions of the editor
3. Additional revisions have been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers

We now re-submit to you a revised version of our study, as well as this cover letter, which answers the reviewers' questions and criticisms, in a point-by-point discussion. The changes made in the revised manuscript are highlighted in yellow for clarity.

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

## Review 1

Reviewed by **2514706**

This review article describes an important problem of fertility and pregnancy of patients suffering from inflammatory bowel diseases. Apart from providing a literature survey, the authors present their own experience in treatment of patients. This may be especially useful for clinicians.

*1. Abstract: In the sentence starting from "This current review", delete one of "current".*

We thank the reviewer for this editorial comment. As suggested, we have changed the abstract accordingly and deleted the second "current".

**Old:** This current review discusses current concerns and recommendations for pregnancy during IBD and is intended for gastroenterologists, general practitioners and IBD patients intending to become, (or already) pregnant, and their families.

**New:** This review discusses current concerns and recommendations for pregnancy during IBD and is intended for gastroenterologists, general practitioners and IBD patients intending to become, (or already) pregnant, and their families.

*2. Page 5: Please, note that as long as we do not fully understand the genetic basis of the disease, any estimations of the increased risk of the disease in the presence of particular gene polymorphism can be considered only at the population level, never in regard of particular patient. Therefore, it can be true that IN A POPULATION the risk of IBD is 2 times higher in the presence of particular gene variant, however, we cannot say this for an individual patient bearing this allele. Hence, the fragment about genetic aspects of IBD should be written in this light.*

We thank the reviewer for this valuable comment. We have now changed the manuscript and added the following sentence.

*Page 5, Line 9*

**Old:** Genomic studies have identified a vast heterogeneous distribution of genes linked with IBD, possibly suggesting different groupings that exhibit these conditions. The large number of genes creates several diverse patterns of IBD activity and inheritance involving different levels of penetrance and thereby requiring individualized therapy.

**New:** Genomic studies have identified a vast heterogeneous distribution of genes linked with IBD, possibly suggesting different groupings that exhibit these conditions. **Therefore, while in a population, the risk of IBD may be elevated by the presence of any particular gene variant, this does not necessarily hold true for individual patients bearing such alleles.** The large number of genes creates several diverse patterns of IBD activity and inheritance involving different levels of penetrance and thereby requiring individualized therapy.

3. Page 19: Is any update available for the PIANO study, since March 2014 (as mentioned in the manuscript)?

We appreciate this interesting comment and indeed we have contacted the study directors and have found that the study is still ongoing and that additional patients have been recruited. However, no additional findings have yet been published and the final report from this study is still pending. Consequently we have not adjusted this section of the discussion.

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

Sincerely yours,



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