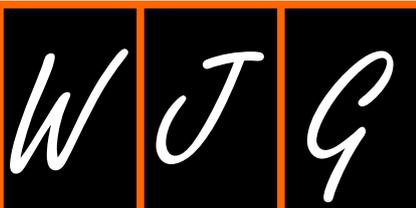


World Journal of *Gastroenterology*

World J Gastroenterol 2017 October 21; 23(39): 7059-7200





REVIEW

- 7059 Less common etiologies of exocrine pancreatic insufficiency

Singh VK, Haupt ME, Geller DE, Hall JA, Quintana Diez PM

MINIREVIEWS

- 7077 Radiofrequency ablation for hepatic hemangiomas: A consensus from a Chinese panel of experts

Gao J, Fan RF, Yang JY, Cui Y, Ji JS, Ma KS, Li XL, Zhang L, Xu CL, Kong XL, Ke S, Ding XM, Wang SH, Yang MM, Song JJ, Zhai B, Nin CM, Guo SG, Xin ZH, Lu J, Dong YH, Zhu HQ, Sun WB

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Basic Study

- 7087 Detection of *KRAS* G12D in colorectal cancer stool by droplet digital PCR

Olmedillas-López S, Lévano-Linares DC, Aúz Alexandre CL, Vega-Clemente L, León Sánchez E, Villagrasa A, Ruiz-Tovar J, García-Arranz M, García-Olmo D

- 7098 Optimal timing for the oral administration of Da-Cheng-Qi decoction based on the pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic targeting of the pancreas in rats with acute pancreatitis

Zhang YM, Zhu L, Zhao XL, Chen H, Kang HX, Zhao JL, Wan MH, Li J, Zhu L, Tang WF

Retrospective Study

- 7110 Short- and long-term results of endoscopic ultrasound-guided transmural drainage for pancreatic pseudocysts and walled-off necrosis

Watanabe Y, Mikata R, Yasui S, Ohyama H, Sugiyama H, Sakai Y, Tsuyuguchi T, Kato N

- 7119 Laparoscopic finding of a hepatic subcapsular spider-like telangiectasis sign in biliary atresia

Zhou Y, Jiang M, Tang ST, Yang L, Zhang X, Yang DH, Xiong M, Li S, Cao GQ, Wang Y

- 7129 Digestive tract reconstruction using isoperistaltic jejunum-later-cut overlap method after totally laparoscopic total gastrectomy for gastric cancer: Short-term outcomes and impact on quality of life

Huang ZN, Huang CM, Zheng CH, Li P, Xie JW, Wang JB, Lin JX, Lu J, Chen QY, Cao LL, Lin M, Tu RH, Lin JL

Observational Study

- 7139 Adalimumab efficacy in enteropathic spondyloarthritis: A 12-mo observational multidisciplinary study

Luchetti MM, Benfaremo D, Ciccio F, Bolognini L, Ciferri M, Farinelli A, Rossini M, Mosca P, Triolo G, Gabrielli A

- 7150** Presence of columnar-lined esophagus is negatively associated with the presence of esophageal varices in Japanese alcoholic men
Yokoyama A, Hirata K, Nakamura R, Omori T, Mizukami T, Aida J, Maruyama K, Yokoyama T
- 7160** Characteristics and outcomes of cholangiocarcinoma by region in Thailand: A nationwide study
Chaiteerakij R, Pan-ngum W, Poovorawan K, Soonthornworasiri N, Treeprasertsuk S, Phaosawasdi K
- 7168** Expression of annexin A5 in serum and tumor tissue of patients with colon cancer and its clinical significance
Sun CB, Zhao AY, Ji S, Han XQ, Sun ZC, Wang MC, Zheng FC

CASE REPORT

- 7174** Faecal microbiota transplantation in patients with *Clostridium difficile* and significant comorbidities as well as in patients with new indications: A case series
Lahtinen P, Mattila E, Anttila VJ, Tillonen J, Teittinen M, Nevalainen P, Salminen S, Satokari R, Arkkila P
- 7185** Oval mucosal opening bloc biopsy after incision and widening by ring thread traction for submucosal tumor
Mori H, Kobara H, Guan Y, Goda Y, Kobayashi N, Nishiyama N, Masaki T
- 7191** Evidence from a familial case suggests maternal inheritance of primary biliary cholangitis
Shin S, Moh IH, Woo YS, Jung SW, Kim JB, Park JW, Suk KT, Kim HS, Hong M, Park SH, Lee MS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- 7198** Duplicate publication bias weakens the validity of meta-analysis of immunosuppression after transplantation
Fairfield CJ, Harrison EM, Wigmore SJ

ABOUT COVER

Editorial board member of *World Journal of Gastroenterology*, Ilhami Yuksel, MD, Associate Professor, Gastroenterology, Yildirim Beyazit University School of Medicine, Ankara 06100, Turkey

AIMS AND SCOPE

World Journal of Gastroenterology (*World J Gastroenterol*, *WJG*, print ISSN 1007-9327, online ISSN 2219-2840, DOI: 10.3748) is a peer-reviewed open access journal. *WJG* was established on October 1, 1995. It is published weekly on the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th each month. The *WJG* Editorial Board consists of 1375 experts in gastroenterology and hepatology from 68 countries.

The primary task of *WJG* is to rapidly publish high-quality original articles, reviews, and commentaries in the fields of gastroenterology, hepatology, gastrointestinal endoscopy, gastrointestinal surgery, hepatobiliary surgery, gastrointestinal oncology, gastrointestinal radiation oncology, gastrointestinal imaging, gastrointestinal interventional therapy, gastrointestinal infectious diseases, gastrointestinal pharmacology, gastrointestinal pathophysiology, gastrointestinal pathology, evidence-based medicine in gastroenterology, pancreatology, gastrointestinal laboratory medicine, gastrointestinal molecular biology, gastrointestinal immunology, gastrointestinal microbiology, gastrointestinal genetics, gastrointestinal translational medicine, gastrointestinal diagnostics, and gastrointestinal therapeutics. *WJG* is dedicated to become an influential and prestigious journal in gastroenterology and hepatology, to promote the development of above disciplines, and to improve the diagnostic and therapeutic skill and expertise of clinicians.

INDEXING/ABSTRACTING

World Journal of Gastroenterology (*WJG*) is now indexed in Current Contents[®]/Clinical Medicine, Science Citation Index Expanded (also known as SciSearch[®]), Journal Citation Reports[®], Index Medicus, MEDLINE, PubMed, PubMed Central and Directory of Open Access Journals. The 2017 edition of Journal Citation Reports[®] cites the 2016 impact factor for *WJG* as 3.365 (5-year impact factor: 3.176), ranking *WJG* as 29th among 79 journals in gastroenterology and hepatology (quartile in category Q2).

FLYLEAF

I-IX Editorial Board

EDITORS FOR THIS ISSUE

Responsible Assistant Editor: *Xiang Li*
Responsible Electronic Editor: *Yan Huang*
Proofing Editor-in-Chief: *Lian-Sheng Ma*

Responsible Science Editor: *Ze-Mao Gong*
Proofing Editorial Office Director: *Jin-Lei Wang*

NAME OF JOURNAL
World Journal of Gastroenterology

ISSN
ISSN 1007-9327 (print)
ISSN 2219-2840 (online)

LAUNCH DATE
October 1, 1995

FREQUENCY
Weekly

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
Damian Garcia-Olmo, MD, PhD, Doctor, Professor, Surgeon, Department of Surgery, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid; Department of General Surgery, Fundacion Jimenez Diaz University Hospital, Madrid 28040, Spain

Stephen C Strom, PhD, Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Division of Pathology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm 141-86, Sweden

Andrzej S Tarnawski, MD, PhD, DSc (Med), Professor of Medicine, Chief Gastroenterology, VA Long Beach Health Care System, University of California, Irvine, CA, 5901 E. Seventh Str., Long Beach,

CA 90822, United States

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS
All editorial board members resources online at <http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/editorialboard.htm>

EDITORIAL OFFICE
Jin-Lei Wang, Director
Yuan Qi, Vice Director
Ze-Mao Gong, Vice Director
World Journal of Gastroenterology
Baishideng Publishing Group Inc
7901 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 501,
Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA
Telephone: +1-925-2238242
Fax: +1-925-2238243
E-mail: editorialoffice@wjgnet.com
Help Desk: <http://www.fpublishing.com/helpdesk>
<http://www.wjgnet.com>

PUBLISHER
Baishideng Publishing Group Inc
7901 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 501,
Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA
Telephone: +1-925-2238242
Fax: +1-925-2238243
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
Help Desk: <http://www.fpublishing.com/helpdesk>

<http://www.wjgnet.com>

PUBLICATION DATE
October 21, 2017

COPYRIGHT
© 2017 Baishideng Publishing Group Inc. Articles published by this Open-Access journal are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial License, which permits use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, the use is non commercial and is otherwise in compliance with the license.

SPECIAL STATEMENT
All articles published in journals owned by the Baishideng Publishing Group (BPG) represent the views and opinions of their authors, and not the views, opinions or policies of the BPG, except where otherwise explicitly indicated.

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS
Full instructions are available online at <http://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/204>

ONLINE SUBMISSION
<http://www.fpublishing.com>

Duplicate publication bias weakens the validity of meta-analysis of immunosuppression after transplantation

Cameron J Fairfield, Ewen M Harrison, Stephen J Wigmore

Cameron J Fairfield, Ewen M Harrison, Stephen J Wigmore, Department of Clinical Surgery, University of Edinburgh, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH16 4SA, United Kingdom

ORCID number: Cameron J Fairfield (0000-0001-7635-1868); Ewen M Harrison (0000-0002-5018-3066); Stephen J Wigmore (0000-0002-3614-8002).

Author contributions: Fairfield CJ wrote this letter; Harrison EM and Wigmore SJ revised the letter.

Conflict-of-interest statement: The authors have no conflict of interest to report.

Open-Access: This article is an open-access article which was selected by an in-house editor and fully peer-reviewed by external reviewers. It is distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt, build upon this work non-commercially, and license their derivative works on different terms, provided the original work is properly cited and the use is non-commercial. See: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

Manuscript source: Unsolicited manuscript

Correspondence to: Cameron J Fairfield, MBChB, Department of Clinical Surgery, University of Edinburgh, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, 51 Little France Drive, Edinburgh EH16 4SA, United Kingdom. cameron.fairfield@nhs.net
Telephone: +44-131-2423614

Received: August 28, 2017

Peer-review started: August 29, 2017

First decision: September 13, 2017

Revised: September 15, 2017

Accepted: September 26, 2017

Article in press: September 26, 2017

Published online: October 21, 2017

Abstract

Duplicate publication can introduce significant bias into a meta-analysis if studies are inadvertently included

more than once. Many studies are published in more than one journal to maximize readership and impact of the study findings. Inclusion of multiple publications of the same study within a meta-analysis affords inappropriate weight to the duplicated data if reports of the same study are not linked together. As studies which have positive findings are more likely to be published in multiple journals this leads to a potential overestimate of the benefits of an intervention. Recent advances in immunosuppression strategies following liver transplantation have led to many studies investigating immunosuppressive regimes including immunosuppression monotherapy. In this letter we focus on a recently published meta-analysis by Lan *et al* investigating studies assessing immunosuppression monotherapy for liver transplantation. The authors claim to have identified fourteen separate randomised studies investigating immunosuppression monotherapy. Seven of the references appear to relate to only three studies which have been subject to duplicate publication. Several similarities can be identified in each of the duplicate publications including similar authorship, identical immunosuppression regimes, identical dates of enrolment and citation of the original publication in the subsequent manuscripts. We discuss the evidence of the duplicate publication inclusion in the meta-analysis.

Key words: Liver transplantation; Immunosuppression; Meta-analysis; Duplicate publication; Bias

© The Author(s) 2017. Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc. All rights reserved.

Core tip: The purpose of this letter to the editor is to comment on the potential inclusion of duplicate publications within the meta-analysis titled: "Efficacy of immunosuppression monotherapy after liver transplantation: A meta-analysis".

Fairfield CJ, Harrison EM, Wigmore SJ. Duplicate publication bias weakens the validity of meta-analysis of immunosuppression

after transplantation. *World J Gastroenterol* 2017; 23(39): 7198-7200 Available from: URL: <http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/full/v23/i39/7198.htm> DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3748/wjg.v23.i39.7198>

TO THE EDITOR

We read with interest the article titled "Efficacy of immunosuppression monotherapy after liver transplantation: A meta-analysis" by Lan *et al*^[1]. The authors have performed a meta-analysis assessing the use of immunosuppression monotherapy after liver transplantation. The authors claim to have included fourteen randomised studies comparing monotherapy vs combination immunosuppression for liver transplanted patients and conclude that calcineurin inhibitor monotherapy is both effective and leads to fewer adverse events than combination therapy. The authors state that the review is the first meta-analysis to include multiple studies assessing the effect of immunosuppression with or without steroids on graft rejection after liver transplantation. Finally, the authors state that the strengths of their review include duplicate study elimination. For the following reasons, we do not agree with their results or their conclusions.

The authors claim to have included fourteen separate randomised studies. On closer inspection, the authors have included seven references relating to only three randomised studies and have not made adequate efforts to eliminate duplicate studies^[2-8].

The first of these studies was performed in the United Kingdom and both publications share the same start date, protocol, several co-authors and the same recruitment centres^[2,3]. The earlier publication appears to record preliminary results^[2]. Manousou *et al*^[3] appear to have included these preliminary results as a separate study. Furthermore, the main publication relating to this study clearly states that the findings are "similar to those in our preliminary report". The citation in support of this statement is identical to that included as a separate study in the meta-analysis by Lan *et al*^[1].

The second of these studies was performed in Germany and both publications share the same enrolment dates, protocol, several co-authors, recruitment centre and numbers of patients allocated to each intervention arm^[4,5]. Furthermore, the publication recording long-term follow-up for patients in this study explicitly states that the authors have previously published their study and that in the publication in 2010 they "present the results of a re-evaluation of our study patients"^[5].

The third of these studies was performed in Italy and all three publications share the same enrolment dates, several co-authors, recruitment centre and protocol^[6-8]. Furthermore, both duplicate studies with later publication dates explicitly state that the earlier publications are interim reports relating to the same

study^[6,7].

The authors also claim to have published the first meta-analysis assessing steroid-free immunosuppression in liver transplanted patients. Three meta-analyses^[9-11] were published prior to the date of submission by Lan *et al*^[1]. Two further meta-analyses have been published since this date^[12,13]. In each case where any of the three studies discussed have been included in another meta-analyses the authors have concluded that the studies have been subject to duplicate publication.

The problem with inclusion of duplicated data in meta-analyses is that it creates bias with inappropriate weight being afforded to the duplicate data. The failure in Lan 2014 to adequately avoid duplicate publication bias may mean that the results of this meta-analysis are invalid.

REFERENCES

- 1 **Lan X**, Liu MG, Chen HX, Liu HM, Zeng W, Wei D, Chen P. Efficacy of immunosuppression monotherapy after liver transplantation: a meta-analysis. *World J Gastroenterol* 2014; **20**: 12330-12340 [PMID: 25232269 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v20.i34.12330]
- 2 **Samonakis DN**, Mela M, Quaglia A, Triantos CK, Thalheimer U, Leandro G, Pesci A, Raimondo ML, Dhillon AP, Rolles K, Davidson BR, Patch DW, Burroughs AK. Rejection rates in a randomised trial of tacrolimus monotherapy versus triple therapy in liver transplant recipients with hepatitis C virus cirrhosis. *Transpl Infect Dis* 2006; **8**: 3-12 [PMID: 16623815 DOI: 10.1111/j.1399-3062.2006.00124.x]
- 3 **Manousou P**, Samonakis D, Cholongitas E, Patch D, O'Beirne J, Dhillon AP, Rolles K, McCormick A, Hayes P, Burroughs AK. Outcome of recurrent hepatitis C virus after liver transplantation in a randomized trial of tacrolimus monotherapy versus triple therapy. *Liver Transpl* 2009; **15**: 1783-1791 [PMID: 19938143 DOI: 10.1002/lt.21907]
- 4 **Moench C**, Barreiros AP, Schuchmann M, Bittinger F, Thiesen J, Hommel G, Kraemer I, Otto G. Tacrolimus monotherapy without steroids after liver transplantation--a prospective randomized double-blinded placebo-controlled trial. *Am J Transplant* 2007; **7**: 1616-1623 [PMID: 17511685 DOI: 10.1111/j.1600-6143.2007.01804.x]
- 5 **Weiler N**, Thrun I, Hoppe-Lotichius M, Zimmermann T, Kraemer I, Otto G. Early steroid-free immunosuppression with FK506 after liver transplantation: long-term results of a prospectively randomized double-blinded trial. *Transplantation* 2010; **90**: 1562-1566 [PMID: 21048536 DOI: 10.1097/TP.0b013e3181ff8794]
- 6 **Belli LS**, de Carlis L, Rondinara G, Alberti AB, Bellati G, De Gasperi A, Forti D, Ideo G. Early cyclosporine monotherapy in liver transplantation: a 5-year follow-up of a prospective, randomized trial. *Hepatology* 1998; **27**: 1524-1529 [PMID: 9620322 DOI: 10.1002/hep.510270609]
- 7 **De Carlis L**, Belli LS, Rondinara GF, Alberti A, Sansalone CV, Colella G, Aseni P, Slim AO, Forti D. Early steroid withdrawal in liver transplant patients: final report of a prospective randomized trial. *Transplant Proc* 1997; **29**: 539-542 [PMID: 9123120 DOI: 10.1016/S0041-1345(96)00255-2]
- 8 **Romani F**, Belli LS, De Carlis L, Rondinara GF, Alberti A, Sansalone CV, Bellati G, Zavaglia C, Fesce E, Ideo G. Cyclosporin monotherapy (after 3 months) in liver transplant patients: a prospective randomized trial. *Transplant Proc* 1994; **26**: 2683-2685 [PMID: 7940840]
- 9 **Knight SR**, Morris PJ. Steroid sparing protocols following

- nonrenal transplants; the evidence is not there. A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Transpl Int* 2011; **24**: 1198-1207 [PMID: 21923805 DOI: 10.1111/j.1432-2277.2011.01335.x]
- 10 **Segev DL**, Sozio SM, Shin EJ, Nazarian SM, Nathan H, Thuluvath PJ, Montgomery RA, Cameron AM, Maley WR. Steroid avoidance in liver transplantation: meta-analysis and meta-regression of randomized trials. *Liver Transpl* 2008; **14**: 512-525 [PMID: 18383081 DOI: 10.1002/lt.21396]
- 11 **Sgourakis G**, Radtke A, Fouzas I, Mylona S, Goumas K, Gockel I, Lang H, Karaliotas C. Corticosteroid-free immunosuppression in liver transplantation: a meta-analysis and meta-regression of outcomes. *Transpl Int* 2009; **22**: 892-905 [PMID: 19453997 DOI: 10.1111/j.1432-2277.2009.00893.x]
- 12 **Gu J**, Wu X, Lu L, Zhang S, Bai J, Wang J, Li J, Ding Y. Role of steroid minimization in the tacrolimus-based immunosuppressive regimen for liver transplant recipients: a systematic review and meta-analysis of prospective randomized controlled trials. *Hepatol Int* 2014; **8**: 198-215 [PMID: 24765218 DOI: 10.1007/s12072-014-9523-y]
- 13 **Fairfield C**, Penninga L, Powell J, Harrison EM, Wigmore SJ. Glucocorticosteroid-free versus glucocorticosteroid-containing immunosuppression for liver transplanted patients. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2015; **(12)**: CD007606 [PMID: 26666504 DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD007606.pub3]

P- Reviewer: Akamatsu N, Bramhall S, Chiu KW, Rodriguez-Peralvarez ML **S- Editor:** Gong ZM **L- Editor:** A **E- Editor:** Huang Y





Published by **Baishideng Publishing Group Inc**
7901 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 501, Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA
Telephone: +1-925-223-8242
Fax: +1-925-223-8243
E-mail: bpgooffice@wjgnet.com
Help Desk: <http://www.f6publishing.com/helpdesk>
<http://www.wjgnet.com>



ISSN 1007-9327

