



### PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

**Manuscript NO:** 58430

**Title:** Assessing the yield and safety of endoscopy in acute graft-vs-host disease after hematopoietic stem cell transplant

**Reviewer's code:** 00039316

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** FEBG, MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Greece

**Author's Country/Territory:** United States

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-07-22

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-07-24 06:45

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-07-24 07:42

**Review time:** 1 Hour

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Scientific quality</b>       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish            |
| <b>Language quality</b>         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection |
| <b>Conclusion</b>               | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection             |
| <b>Re-review</b>                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No   |
| <b>Peer-reviewer statements</b> | Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous<br>Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No   |



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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The retrospective case series entitled "Assessing the yield and safety of endoscopy in acute GVHD after HSCT" assessed the efficacy of gastroscopy and flexible sigmoidoscopy to confirm GVHD in patients who underwent HSCT. Authors showed that the combination of both endoscopic procedures with biopsies taken even from normal appearing mucosa better identifies the syndrome than each procedure alone. Minor comments 1. The abstract is lengthy; should be shortened 2. Is the histological classification of the severity of GVHD arbitrary? If not, please give reference 3. Inclusion of representative pictures would largely enrich the manuscript



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**Manuscript NO:** 58430

**Title:** Assessing the yield and safety of endoscopy in acute graft-vs-host disease after hematopoietic stem cell transplant

**Reviewer's code:** 00058381

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Austria

**Author's Country/Territory:** United States

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-07-22

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-07-26 06:05

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-07-28 00:17

**Review time:** 1 Day and 18 Hours

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Scientific quality</b>       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish            |
| <b>Language quality</b>         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection |
| <b>Conclusion</b>               | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection             |
| <b>Re-review</b>                | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No   |
| <b>Peer-reviewer statements</b> | Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous<br>Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No   |



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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Overall comment: (1) This evaluation aims at assessing the yield and safety of endoscopy in acute GVHD after HSCT; it provides local quality control rather than innovative research and has the drawbacks of a retrospective study design. As stated by the authors at the end of the discussion, further investigations will be needed. Specific comments: (2) Patients who did not have tissue biopsied during endoscopy were excluded; it would be crucial to know the reasons why no biopsies were performed in them (selection bias?). (3) Current medication of the included patients (e.g., Mycophenolate)? (4) A potential limitation for the yield of endoscopy is that pathological classification is subject to interobserver variability; illustrative images would be important. (5) Some numbers are not clear; e.g., Table 1: hematologic disorders n=195 (AML 80 + B-ALL 34 + MDS 30 + Myelofibrosis 13?); Table 1/Table 4: different numbers for "Diarrhea", "Nausea/vomiting", "Abdominal pain". (6) The text (and especially the abstract) should be more concise. (7) Reference list: Some references are incomplete/the format does not follow the guidelines of the journal.



## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

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**Title:** Assessing the yield and safety of endoscopy in acute graft-vs-host disease after hematopoietic stem cell transplant

**Reviewer's code:** 00039316

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** FEBG, MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Greece

**Author's Country/Territory:** United States

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-07-22

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-08-31 06:40

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-08-31 12:26

**Review time:** 5 Hours

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Scientific quality</b>       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish            |
| <b>Language quality</b>         | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection |
| <b>Conclusion</b>               | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection             |
| <b>Peer-reviewer statements</b> | Peer-Review: <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous<br>Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No   |

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



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Please shorten the abstract