



April 02, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 9019-revised.doc).

Title: 'Mucosal Healing' in Ulcerative Colitis: between clinical evidence and market suggestion

Author: Pagnini Cristiano, Menasci Francesca, Festa Stefano, Rizzatti Gianenrico, Delle Fave Gianfranco

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Pathophysiology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9019

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers, and the modifications have been highlighted in yellow:

1 Format has been updated and language have been improved by a revision from professional editing service (American Journal Experts)

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers:

- (1) To reviewer No. 2530755: we thank the reviewer for the positive comment and we understand that our review may appear 'narrative'. Actually, this is partially explained by the fact that we intended to provide a critical and synthetic overview of the current evidence of MH concept, as we stated in the Introduction section, rather than a comprehensive and detailed revision of the literature. Nonetheless, we thank the reviewer for the detailed and careful criticisms, that we tried to accomplish. In particular:
 - a. We better clarified the concept of the mucosal healing in CD and in UC, modifying the sentence in the Introduction section (Page 5, line 15-17)
 - b. As suggested, we addressed the issue of the higher rate of MH vs. clinical remission in some trials, adding few sentences in the "MH: Definition" section (Page 8, line 9-14)
 - c. The histologic remission concept have been better described by the addition of few sentences in the "MH: Evidence for Prognostic Relevance" section (Page 11, line 7-14) and of 3 additional references (40-2)
 - d. The limits of the evidence of the prognostic value of MH in the biologic trials have been better emphasized, by the addition of sentences in the Introduction section (Page 6 line 8-16) and in the "MH: Evidence for Prognostic Relevance" section (Page 10, last 4 lines)
 - e. The "Corticosteroids" section have been expanded and the oral and topical formulations have been discussed separately. One reference have been added (60).
 - f. The "Aminosalicylates" section have been incremented according to reviewer's suggestion, and four references have been added (68-71).
 - g. We strongly agree with the conclusion of the reviewer about the inconclusiveness of current data for a possible role of MH in the therapeutic management of UC patients, and we further straightened the concept adding few sentences in the Conclusion section (Page 17, line 8-15)
- (2) To reviewer No. 2462725: we thank the reviewer for the positive comment and we fully agree with him/her about the lack of solid evidence in literature about this issue.
- (3) To reviewer No. 2548913: we thank the reviewer for the positive comment and we modified the

paper according to his/her suggestion, in particular:

- a. Language was improved and grammar errors corrected by revision of the paper from a professional editing service
 - b. The limitation of the current data of biologic drugs for MH achievement has been better clarified by adding few sentences in the Introduction section (Page 6 line 9-16) and one sentence at the end of the paragraph entitled "Biologic agents"
 - c. The problem of the high cost of maintenance therapy with biologic drugs have been mentioned in the Conclusion (Page 17, line 10-11)
- (4) To reviewer No. 2548692: Grammatical errors have been corrected by language editing by a professional editing service; Introduction section have been modified by the addition of few sentences (Page 6, line 8-16); the MH concept have been more clearly discussed by the addition of several sentences in all the sections.
- (5) To reviewer No. 2548786: we thank the reviewer for the positive comment and we tried to accomplish his/her criticisms, in particular:
- a. Language have been improved and grammatical errors have been corrected by revision of the manuscript by a professional editing service
 - b. The meaning of the title of the paper have been better clarified by the addition of few sentences in the Introduction section (Page 6, line 8-16)
 - c. The novel concept of the manuscript, and in particular the provocative characteristic of the paper, have been further underlined by adding a sentence in the Conclusion section (Page 16, line 1-2)
 - d. The issue of how to increase the MH was beyond the aim of our review, anyway we mentioned the problem in the Conclusion section (Page 17, line 13-15)
 - e. 13 new references have been added

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,



Cristiano Pagnini, M.D., Ph.D.

"Sapienza" University of Rome,

S. Andrea Hospital,

Via di Grottarossa 1035, 00189 Rome, Italy.

Tel: +39 0633779, Fax: +39 06 33776601

e-mail: cristiano.pagnini@uniroma1.it