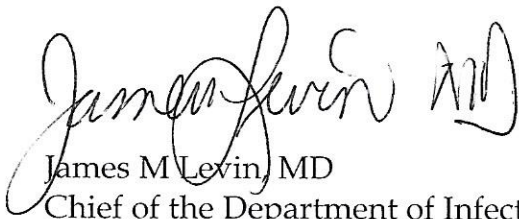


There was no biostatistics analysis conducted in our study. Therefore there was no review by statistician.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James M. Levin MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "MD" part being more distinct and written in a slightly different style than the name.

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