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**Dept. of General, Visceral
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Dear Professor Ya-Juan Ma,

The biostatistics of this manuscript has been reviewed before submission by Dr. Paul Manka, he is an expert in biomedical statistics at our department. During our data analysis and before writing the manuscript Dr. Manka helped with evaluation of data and gave guidance for appropriate statistical analysis.

Sincerely,

Christian D. Fingas, M.D.

Associate Professor of Experimental Surgery

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