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Any manuscript describing a study (basic research and clinical research) that used biostatistics must include a statement in the Materials and Methods section affirming that the statistical review of the study was performed by a biomedical statistician. Statistical review is performed before the submission or after peer-review. The author invites an expert in Biomedical Statistics to evaluate the statistical method(s) used in the study, including but not limited to the *t*-test (group or paired comparisons), chi-square test, ridit, probit, logit and regression (linear, curvilinear, or stepwise) modeling, correlation, analysis of variance, and analysis of covariance. The review by the biomedical statistician is conducted with respect to the following points: (1) Statistical methods are adequately and appropriately described when they are used to verify the results; (2) Whether the statistical techniques are suitable or correct; (3) Only homogeneous data can be averaged. Standard deviations are preferred to standard errors. The number of observations and subjects (*n*) is given. Losses in observations, such as drop-outs from the study, are reported; (4) Values, such as ED50, LD50 and IC50, have the 95% confidence limits calculated and have been compared by weighted probit modeling (using the functions described by Bliss and Finney); and (5) The word “significantly” is replaced by its synonyms (if it indicates extent) or the *P* value (if it indicates statistical significance). In addition, a copy of any approval document(s)/letter(s) or waiver should be provided to the BPG in PDF format.

I, Dr. Mitchell Cappell, have had formal training and extensive experience in conducting systematic reviews, with 4 published systematic reviews in peer-reviewed journals indexed in PubMed during the last 2 years,^[1-4] and with a Ph.D. in neurophysiology that involved 5 years of training and research in biomedical statistics. During my Ph.D. training I statistically analyzed electrical synaptic phenomena.^[5] Among my 283 articles published in PubMed, I have published several primarily statistical papers^[6-8].

1. **Gjeorgjievski M, Cappell MS.** Portal hypertensive gastropathy: A systematic review of the

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pathophysiology, clinical presentation, natural history and therapy. *World J Hepatol* 2016;**8**:231–62 [PMID: 26855694 DOI: 10.4254/wjh.v8.i4.231]

2. **Cappell MS**, Stevens CE, Amin M. Systematic review of giant gastric lipomas reported since 1980 and report of two new cases in a review of 117110 esophagogastroduodenoscopies. *World J Gastroenterol* 2017;**23**:5619–33 [PMID: 28852321 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v23.i30.5619]

3. **Rami Reddy SR**, Cappell MS. A systematic review of the clinical presentation, diagnosis, and treatment of small bowel obstruction. *Curr Gastroenterol Rep.* 2017 Jun;**19**(6):28. doi: 10.1007/s11894-017-0566-9. (PMID: 28439845).

4. Hakim S, Bortman J, Orosey M, **Cappell MS**. Case report and systematic literature review of a novel etiology of sinistral portal hypertension presenting with UGI bleeding: Left gastric artery pseudoaneurysm compressing the splenic vein treated by embolization of the pseudoaneurysm. *Medicine (Baltimore)*. 2017 Mar;**96**(13):e6413. doi: 10.1097/MD.00000000000006413. (PMID: 28353569).

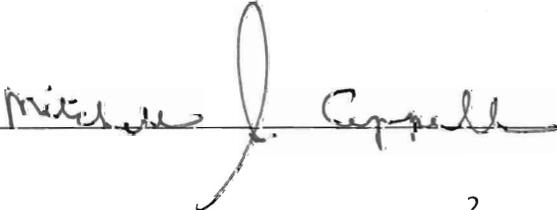
5. **Cappell MS**, Spray DC, Bennett MV. Stationary and non-stationary occurrences of miniature end plate potentials are well described as stationary and non-stationary Poisson processes in the mollusc *Navanax inermis*. *Brain Res* 1988; 454(1):244-250 (PMID: 3409008).

6. **Cappell MS**, Forde KA. Spatial clustering of multiple hyperplastic, adenomatous, and malignant colonic polyps in individual patients. *Dis Colon Rectum* 1989; 32(8):641-652. (Leading article) (PMID: 2752850).

7. **Cappell MS**. Profound spatial clustering of simultaneous peptic ulcers. *Gut* 1989; 30(10):1329-1333 (PMID: 2583560).

8. **Cappell MS**. Profound spatial clustering of polyps in individuals with multiple nonmalignant polyps of the stomach and duodenal bulb: a combined endoscopic and radiographic study. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1990; 85(8):953-958 (PMID: 2375322).

I, Mitchell S. Cappell, M.D.-Ph.D., have personally reviewed all the statistics within this systematic review and found them to be correct.

Signed  Dated 7/11/18