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ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5336

Title: The impact of antiviral therapy in patients with ulcerative colitis complicated by cytomegalovirus: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Reviewer code: 01560578

Science editor: Ma, Ya-Juan

Date sent for review: 2013-08-30 17:58

Date reviewed: 2013-08-31 12:16

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The study, at the first glimpse attracts high attention, but after a meticulous review of the included studies, a comprehensive bias of selecting studies will emerge. Due to the nature of the study which is a systematic review and meta analysis, which is supposed to provide us with a comprehensive perspective on the current knowledge on the issue, we should be more cautious on the methodology and entering studies with proper approaches. Since in this study, the efficacy of a drug is evaluated, so all the included studies MUST have randomized their participants into case (recipients of antiviral therapy) and controls, but if you review the included studies, you will realize that some of them have not used this approach, and they simply given gancyclovir to some of their patients, and to some others they didn't; and one may say, those given the treatment were more drug resistant, or in worse clinical conditions. Moreover, the type of drug administration was not consistent between the studies. While in some patients injection was used in some others it was administered orally.



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Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5336

Title: The impact of antiviral therapy in patients with ulcerative colitis complicated by cytomegalovirus: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Reviewer code: 00503417

Science editor: Ma, Ya-Juan

Date sent for review: 2013-08-30 17:58

Date reviewed: 2013-09-21 18:03

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> [Y]Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors have undertaken a good project but, unfortunately, the data in literature are very heterogeneous. I doubt, therefore, whether a valid analysis can be done. 1. Of the 448 studies identified, only nine fitted the bill for analysis. Although this is not uncommon in meta-analyses, it shows how restricted the sample is, and how little the conclusions may be applicable to the whole population. 2. Not one of the nine articles included in the analysis was of high quality. 3. Only six of the nine, and two of the nine, could be used for determining the secondary outcome measures, making the analysis even more restrictive. Conducting subgroup analyses becomes even more problematic. 4. Most importantly, the one conclusion that the authors draw is that antiviral treatment made no difference to the short- or long-term outcome; in fact, those who received treatment did worse. An immediate thought would be: is it because those who received treatment had more severe disease or were sicker to begin with? Regretfully, these data were not available



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Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5336

Title: The impact of antiviral therapy in patients with ulcerative colitis complicated by cytomegalovirus: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Reviewer code: 00503404

Science editor: Ma, Ya-Juan

Date sent for review: 2013-08-30 17:58

Date reviewed: 2013-09-23 11:49

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting paper on one of the controversial issues in IBD literature on whether to treat or not and under which conditions CMV infection in patients with IBD. Comments; 1. The methodology and analysis is technically solid, however I would request the authors to have an even more cautious interpretation, since it is very much possible that patients with a more severe disease were actually treated (heavy selection bias). This should be even more highlighted in both abstract and conclusion. 2. Please do not comment or label the findings in the results. There should be straight statements instead, please refrain from using expressions like "surprisingly". 3. Please perform an additional sensitivity analysis for European vs Asian studies without the study from Israel and Canada, although this most probably will not affect outcomes. 4. As this was the interpretation also by the authors the analysis was not powered to analyze the risk for mortality this part needs to be highlighted clearly as a limitation in the discussion, even this part could be completely removed from the results, only stating that data are insufficient for a definite analysis and results could be interpreted as exploratory in the discussion. 5. Please revise the "strength" section. Unfortunately the metaanalysis is only as good as the included studies, and they are of low quality. Statistics in fact may amplify the effect of the confounders, please list this also as a possible limitation. So the limitation part is clearly the important part here. 6. Reference style should be adjusted, as well as core tip and "comments" parts as requested by the journal.



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Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5336

Title: The impact of antiviral therapy in patients with ulcerative colitis complicated by cytomegalovirus: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Reviewer code: 00055775

Science editor: Ma, Ya-Juan

Date sent for review: 2013-08-30 17:58

Date reviewed: 2013-11-06 03:58

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Nice consolidated review. I would rather call it systematic review rather than meta-analysis. Figures and flowsheets are missing to review.

ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5336

Title: The impact of antiviral therapy in patients with ulcerative colitis complicated by cytomegalovirus: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Reviewer code: 00036898

Science editor: Ma, Ya-Juan

Date sent for review: 2013-08-30 17:58

Date reviewed: 2013-12-11 05:03

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a very well structured and conducted systematic review and meta-analysis that provides very relevant information on the impact of CMV infection on the prognosis of UC patients, and also on the impact of antiviral therapy on the outcome of these patients. Major comments: It should be emphasized that in the group of patients in which the CMV infection was diagnosed using a combination of HE staining and IHC no significant differences between the treated and untreated patients were observed. This is the most important result of the study. Minor comments: Page 8, line 3: replace IHC by Immunohistochemistry (IHC). Page 10, line 2: replace H-E by HE.