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ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 13254

Title: Use of nonselective beta-blockers in cirrhotic patients with no or small varices: A meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

Reviewer code: 02957017

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2014-08-14 19:44

Date reviewed: 2014-08-29 05:31

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<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	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Prevention of the development of complications of portal hypertension is an important area of research, and the role of nonselective beta-blockers remains uncertain in cirrhotic patients with no or small varices. Although this meta-analysis has several limitations, it provides evidence supporting the recommendation of the guidelines and the manuscript is well written. I had recommended this study for publication



ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 13254

Title: Use of nonselective beta-blockers in cirrhotic patients with no or small varices: A meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

Reviewer code: 02941569

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2014-08-14 19:44

Date reviewed: 2014-08-22 10:32

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<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	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting meta-analysis focusing on the application of nonselective beta-blockers in cirrhotic patients with no or small varices, which is still controversial and of scientific value in the management of gastroesophageal varices and variceal bleeding in liver cirrhosis. As a meta-analysis of RCTs, the structure is complete without significant methodological flaws and the manuscript is basically well written. However, there are several problems need to be noted: 1. In included studies, only 3 out of 6 were published after the year of 2000, and only one of them was published within last 3 years, which made the definition of "small varices" varied greatly among all the studies; besides, the sample size of included studies is relatively small (patients number 83-213), and only 4 of all the studies were considered high quality. All the above issues may contribute to bias and limit the validation of conclusion. 2. Since there are four included studies targeting on patients with small varices, the comparison of the rate of developing large varices, first episode of bleeding, death and adverse events between NSBBs and placebo groups among these studies is not mentioned and should be presented and discussed, if possible.



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ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 13254

Title: Use of nonselective beta-blockers in cirrhotic patients with no or small varices: A meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

Reviewer code: 02936117

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2014-08-14 19:44

Date reviewed: 2014-08-26 19:16

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<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"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> Existing	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I consider that your paper is very interesting, and nonselective beta-blockers in cirrhotic patients with no or small varices are not recommended in clinical setting of cirrhotic patients. Your paper is suitable in acceptance for publication in this journal.