

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 19943

Title: Advances in Alcoholic Liver Disease: An Update on Alcoholic Hepatitis

Reviewer's code: 02940090

Reviewer's country: Germany

Science editor: Jing Yu

Date sent for review: 2015-05-27 14:37

Date reviewed: 2015-06-16 04:00

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
[Y] Grade A: Excellent	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	[Y] Accept
[] Grade B: Very good	[] Grade B: Minor language polishing	[] The same title	[] High priority for publication
[] Grade C: Good	[] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	[] Duplicate publication	[] Rejection
[] Grade D: Fair	[] Grade D: Rejected	[Y] No	[] Minor revision
[] Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	[] Major revision
		[] The same title	
		[] Duplicate publication	
		[] Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Comments to authors: The manuscript entitled "Advances in Alcoholic Liver Disease: An Update on Alcoholic Hepatitis" by Liang R. et al. is an excellently written comprehensive review about the current understanding of the pathogenesis, natural course and therapy of this distinct acute manifestation of alcoholic liver disease. The publication of this review article on this very important topic should have high priority. Alcoholic hepatitis is a severe complication of alcohol abuse still having a high mortality rate. For adequate therapeutic measures it is crucial to understand the pathophysiology of the disease and to diagnose it promptly. Furthermore controversy about the best therapeutic strategy in addition to the essential abstinence from alcohol exists. Recently, several clinical trials with different therapeutic strategies have been conducted to shed light on this controversial subject. Especially the question about the evaluation of these patients for liver transplantation is highly controversial. The submitted manuscript by Liang R. et al. covers these issues in an excellent. There are only minor concerns: 1. The different scoring systems for evaluating the severity of the disease and response to therapy (DF, MELD, GAHS and Lille score) are somewhat confusing especially for readers who are not that familiar with the subject. Therefore a



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short description of these scores- either in the text part of the article or in a short table is recommended. Understanding the scoring systems is important to evaluate the results of past and future clinical 2. For non-Anglo-American readers it would be useful to give the critical amounts of alcohol intake also in International System units e.g. in milliliters. 3. A short description of the role of increased gut permeability and subsequent endotoxemia and the link to the activation of proinflammatory cytokines should be included in the article. The understanding of these pathways could possibly lead to future therapies early in the disease process. 4. The clinical trials to evaluate the use of anti-TNF α -antibodies should be discussed a little more in detail.

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 19943

Title: Advances in Alcoholic Liver Disease: An Update on Alcoholic Hepatitis

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<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"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I agree with most of the points emphasized by the author in this comprehensive review. I have some minor revisions to suggest.

- In "Clinical Manifestation of AH",
o I think that the statement (p. 7): *"The patients report drastic increase in their alcohol consumption"* is too assertive. To my knowledge, there is no data in the literature to support it. In my own experience, a recent increase in alcohol consumption is far from constant. Perhaps the sentence could be attenuated (e.g. "Some patients" or "The patients often report").
o p. 8: *"The presence of fever...antibiotic treatment."* Although I acknowledge that AH could be a cause of fever, infection is also highly prevalent in that context. As a consequence, I would not stress (like the author does) on the fact that the search for an infection could be "unnecessary" in those patients. My position is rather that attributing fever to the AH itself could only be done after that infection has been ruled out. On the topic of infection and AH, I am a little

surprised that the author doesn't discuss the important work of Louvet *et al.*

(Louvet A, Wartel F, Castel H, Dharancy S, Hollebecque A, Canva-Delcambre V, Deltenre P, Mathurin

P. Infection in patients with severe alcoholic hepatitis treated with steroids: early response to therapy is

the key factor. *Gastroenterology*. 2009 Aug;137(2):541-8.)

- In "Behavioral treatment" "abstinence":

o p. 11-12: "*A few studies...from alcohol use are poor.*" I think that the author is a little bit severe for the works that has been done to evaluate the interventions to reduce alcohol consumption in heavy drinkers. Perhaps the word "few" could be removed.

o p. 12: "*Nalmefen has demonstrated...higher selectivity...opiates receptors.*"

This statement is not perfectly exact: nalmefen action has not a higher selectivity than naltrexone but, on the contrary, a broader action as it also links to kappa receptor.

o p. 12: "*Baclofen... alcohol craving.*" The author should mention the study by Addolorato *et al.* which is the only one to date to have evaluated an anticraving medication in a context of severe liver disease (Addolorato G, Leggio L, Ferrulli A, Cardone S, Vonghia L, Mirijello A, Abenavoli L, D'Angelo C, Caputo F, Zambon A, Haber PS, Gasbarrini G. Effectiveness and safety of baclofen for maintenance of alcohol abstinence in alcohol-dependent patients with liver cirrhosis: randomised, double-blind controlled study. *Lancet*. 2007 Dec 8;370(9603):1915-22.)

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
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COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this manuscript submitted by Liang et al, the authors aimed to review Advances in Alcoholic Hepatitis. The quality of the manuscript's presentation and readability is satisfactory. The review is correctly developed with a suitable order, and it summarizes the relevant approaches. Consequently, the article is suitable for publication in its present form. Regards,