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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 32989

Title: Letter to the Editor :“Efficacy and safety of stellate ganglion block in chronic ulcerative colitis”

Reviewer’s code: 03257657

Reviewer’s country: Germany

Science editor: Jing Yu

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	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"/> The same title	<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"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Manuscript number: 32989 Letter to the Editor: “Efficacy and safety of stellate ganglion block in chronic ulcerative colitis” Lipov, E., Candido, K. This letter to the editor is at first a comment on a paper of Zhao et al. published in the same Journal in January 2017. I first want to thank Dr. Lipov for his letter marking at least two incorrect citations in Zhao et al. I absolutely agree with the authors that Shimizu et al. were neither studying nor discussing effects on inflammatory cytokine release following SGB and therefore it is a misquotation. The second paper mentioned as erroneous citation is written from Mulvaney et al. This paper indeed deals with SGB but I cannot find a single word indicating improvement of blood circulation upon SGB. Furthermore Dr. Lipov is absolutely right, that there were indications from 2013 where Liu et al. published results that SGB have no impact on circulation anymore. These two aspects were the explanation of the results in the study of Zhao et al., which are not suitable for this purpose. The editors may here consider publishing an erratum of Zhao et al. A second aspect is the indication of SGB in patients with CUC. In this aspect I do not agree with the authors concluding that the study of Zhao et al. expanded the indications for SGB. From an



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anatomical point of view I won't find a single indication to assume SGB as a specific therapy for patients with CUC. There is no direct connection from the stellate ganglion to the colon. In order to treat CUC, a blockade of the inferior mesenteric ganglion would be more straightforward. Of course, the sympathetic nervous system is a key player in the normal stress response and therefore activates the innate immune system. But cave: the stellate ganglion is not "the sympathetic nervous system". It is only a small part of it and in particular not responsible for the innervation of the colon. For patients with CUC interventions closing barriers, changing a bacterial dysbiosis in the gut, avoiding high casein, gluten and Neu5GC-input as well as reducing psycho-emotional stress/ chronic life stress is quite more specific and long-lasting as SGB. And these interventions are all published to have an effective impact on reducing proinflammatory cytokines as Interleukin-1, Il-6, TNFa and so on.