

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 40991

Title: Mode of delivery by an ulcerative colitis mother in a case of twins: Immunological differences in cord blood and placenta

Reviewer's code: 02446483

Reviewer's country: Canada

Science editor: Ruo-Yu Ma

Date sent for review: 2018-07-23

Date reviewed: 2018-07-23

Review time: 12 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It has been recognized that the mode of delivery is critical in shaping the immune system of the children. There are existing immunological differences in newborns delivered by C-section versus vaginal deliveries. The authors of this manuscript



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brilliantly investigated immunological differences in cord blood and placenta of twins, of which one was delivered by vaginal and the other by urgent C-section. A trend in reduction of T cells, monocytes and neutrophils was observed in the cord blood of C-section delivered versus the vaginally delivered twin. This is in line with other reports indicating that C-section newborns have lower leukocytes count in their cord blood. I think the article is well written and results are sounding. I found that the discussion of the confounding factors is poor (e.g. the time of the urgent C-section may be crucial and may influence the immunity of the offsprings).

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 40991

Title: Mode of delivery by an ulcerative colitis mother in a case of twins: Immunological differences in cord blood and placenta

Reviewer's code: 03478404

Reviewer's country: Romania

Science editor: Ruo-Yu Ma

Date sent for review: 2018-08-14

Date reviewed: 2018-08-16

Review time: 2 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript entitled "Mode of delivery by an ulcerative colitis mother in a case of twins: immunological differences in cord blood and placenta" shows original and interesting findings. The authors detected major immunological differences in two twins

born from a mother with ulcerative colitis, one having vaginal delivery, while the other being born via emergency C-section. They are the first to demonstrate that the mode of delivery influences the frequency and functionality of CD71+ erythroid cells in both cord blood and placenta tissues. There is no doubt; those findings are of outstanding importance. Figures are of good quality and very illustrative. However, I would some comments/questions: 1. Please explain why you consider this a case control "STUDY". 2. Please insert "Core tip" and "Key words" in the manuscript, not only on the submission site. 3. Please correct "ulceraitive" in the key words. Please insert the full verb in "however their frequency and function in vaginal versus C-section deliveries of full-term pregnancies in particular in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) patients yet to be determined". 4. The following sentences should not be in the Introduction, since they represent the description of presented cases. "Twin A was born by naturally induced vaginal delivery, the other twin by urgent C-section which is commonly practiced in order to reduce stress for the second twins 16 or due to delivery associated complications. In this case, the head of baby B was high and variable uncomplicated fetal heart rate decelerations was noted. As the head was descending the cervix did clamp down, at that point urgent C-section was recommended." 5. Conclusion of the study should not be in the Introduction: "Our findings suggest mode of delivery directs immunological changes which may have potential long-term effects on the offspring." 6. Material and methods should be re-written, with proper description of cases there. 7. The following sentence should be moved from "Results" to "Methods": "CBMCs were freshly isolated from cord blood of the newborns and immune phenotyping was performed for the frequency of different immune cells such as T cells, NK cells, monocytes, CD71+ erythroid cells and neutrophils". 8. "Results" should include only the findings from the presented cases. Comparisons with other studies from the literature should be made in the "Discussion". Here and there, the comparisons with



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other studies are redundant in the “Results” and “Discussion”. They should be carefully reviewed. 9. The main text is not written according to the Format style indicated by the WJG. 10. Table 1A needs reformatting. 11. References are not written according to the requirements of the WJG, otherwise they are pertinent. 12. Why did the researchers choose to test fecal calprotectin at 12 weeks after delivery? 13. The authors could insert more clinical data about the two twins: growth, TYPE OF FEEDING, stools/day etc. Were they both in good health? Fecal calprotectin values in little infants are generally higher and 982 could be a normal value. Fecal calprotectin can be as higher as 2000 in healthy breastfed infants (Savino et al, 2010).

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

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- ☐ No