

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 59357

**Title:** High mortality associated with Gram-negative bacterial bloodstream infection in liver transplant recipients undergoing immunosuppression reduction

**Reviewer's code:** 00077376

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Japan

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-09-17

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-09-17 15:21

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-09-29 13:15

**Review time:** 11 Days and 21 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

As shown in the title, “immunosuppressive reduction during bacterial bloodstream infection in 70 liver transplant recipient, this study is very interesting, and if you address the significance in GNB infection more clearly, this will become more impressive. In this situation, however, the following aim described in the abstract, “To summarize our experience in the management of immunosuppression treatment during bacterial bloodstream infection (BSI) in liver transplantation (LT) recipients”, is not impressive and meaningless. Additionally, I have the following comments and questions. (1) In the abstract, the content of methods is inadequate because the subjects and examination methods are not described concretely. (2) In the abstract, immunosuppressive and its abbreviation IS are not used properly. (3) In the abstract, the mortality rate should be described according to the two group, GPB and GNB groups, showing the statistical difference. (4) I am very surprised with the fact that your institution had performed LT for 1297 recipients during only two years. This means that nearly 2 LT procedures per day had been performed in a single institution. Among them, 786 recipients are children. What percentage of these patients had living donor? The exact number of living donor and deceased donor should be described. (5) The median (IQR) time from the day of transplantation (day 0) to onset of BSI was 4 (1-6) days in GPB group (n = 45) and 12 (8-41) days in GNB group (n = 29). Are this data significantly different? (6) Table 1 shows that the rates of intra-abdominal infection, microbiological clearance, IS reduction including complete withdrawal and death were significantly higher in GNB group, compared to GPB group. However, these findings are not mentioned in the section of results. Furthermore, you should discuss these points more clearly. (7) IS reduction was found in 28 (41.2%) cases, specifically 5 cases (5/28, 17.9%) in GPB group and 23 cases in GNB group. Is this significantly different? It seems that IS reduction rate

was significantly higher in GNB group.

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**Reviewer's code:** 05232520

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MSc, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor, Research Scientist

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Brazil

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-09-17

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-09-30 11:00

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-10-08 13:23

**Review time:** 8 Days and 2 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The manuscript submitted by Chen and cols. is a prospective study aiming at evaluating the impact of immunosuppression reduction during bacterial infection in liver transplant recipients. Despite some interesting results, the study presents several aspects requiring further clarification before its consideration for publication

**Major**

- The title needs to be rewritten, in its current form it confusing, not informative nor attractive to the great audience
- In the abstract, the aim of the study is not clear and does not make any sense. A study willing to summarize something is not acceptable
- It is mandatory to clarify in the abstract the term “immunosuppression reduction” whenever it is first used in the text
- Introduction is quite confusing and needs to be improved. Authors must clarify the definition and use of immunosuppression reduction besides literature supporting its efficacy and/or effects on the infection/transplant outcome. This information must be followed by the types of immunosuppressive drugs most frequently used and dosage.
- The criteria for inclusion/exclusion must be better described
- The topic - Antimicrobial prophylaxis is confusing and needs to be improved. How frequently was the colonization with MRSA screened? Also, authors have described: “Alternative regimen including vancomycin may be considered for the patients with a history of MRSA infection or colonization”. Considering the study is already done, how the authors stated that vancomycin could probably be considered???? The same observation for “...surgeon may modify...”. In fact, which protocol was used? Authors need to be more specific.
- Authors must describe the sequences (forward and reverse) of the primers used in the study
- Authors must describe which were the doses used before and after immunosuppression reduction. Also, it is necessary to state which was the drug discontinued in another patient.
- The conclusion needs to be improved.
- **Minor**
- Some parts of the text are confusing and need to be rewritten.

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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**Author's Country/Territory:** China

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**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-11-02 05:11

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



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The revised manuscript has been corrected very well according to the reviewers' comments and questions.

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The authors have satisfactorily responded to all my questions and made the necessary changes to the manuscript.