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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 66604

Title: Serum Soluble ST2 as a Novel Inflammatory Marker for predicting the severity of Acute pancreatitis

Reviewer's code: 05372169
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2021-04-04

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-04-12 05:53

Reviewer performed review: 2021-04-19 14:42

Review time: 7 Days and 8 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [Y] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [Y] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[Y] Yes [ ] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors assessed the association between sST2 and severity of AP in 123 patients enrolled in this study. The serum levels of sST2 , C-reactive protein (CRP) and Th1 and Th2 related cytokine INF-γ, TNF-α ,IL-2, IL-4, IL-5 and IL-13 were measured by highly sensitive ELISA and the severity of AP patients was evaluated based on the new Atlanta classification criteria in 2012. 1. The paper is well done and the results and discussion are consistent with the data presented. 2. Please avoid abbreviations in the Tables and figures because they need to be self-explaining 3. The literature should be updated and revised according to the policy of the journal

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 66604

Title: Serum Soluble ST2 as a Novel Inflammatory Marker for predicting the severity of Acute pancreatitis

Reviewer's code: 02445866
Position: Editorial Board
Academic degree: FEBS, MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor, Surgeon

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Lithuania

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2021-04-04

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-04-13 05:18

Reviewer performed review: 2021-04-24 11:02

Review time: 11 Days and 5 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [Y] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing [Y] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [Y] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[Y] Yes [ ] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript "Serum Soluble ST2 as a Novel Inflammatory Marker for predicting the severity of Acute pancreatitis" presents an interesting approach investigating peculiarities of immune response in acute pancreatitis. The search of biomarkers is essential when classifying severity of disease, predicting the course and outcomes of the disease, establishing some specific management algorithms etc. This is a promising idea based and methodologically well-organized research; however, some drawbacks in presentation of the study results are obvious. The introduction is unproportionably extended. An excessive information addressing Materials and Methods should not be placed here; as well as some basics of immunology… Authors' considerations on the role of investigated variables in pathogenesis of AP should be reserved for Discussion section, not for the Introduction. In the Discussion section the authors have to concentrate discussing results of the study avoiding basic details on specific roles of Th1 and Th2 cells. Repetitions… some statements duplicate ones form the Introduction section The Discussion section appears as a repetition of the Results and speculations, not based on data from other research papers. A further collection of statements from other research publications is presented. A clear "story" of the presentation in the Discussion section is lacking. "Thirdly, in the cases of pancreatitis combined with cholecystitis, cholecystitis might affect the results of the study." - an interesting point. No data has been provided on the rate of acute cholecystitis in the investigated cohort. There is usually no association between acute pancreatitis and acute cholecystitis; biliary stones should be addressed instead. The Conclusions are too straightforward considering the study limitations as proposed by the authors. The function of Th1 and Th2 cells has been investigated but not the cell numbers... English language needs editing throughout the manuscript, especially in the Discussion section.

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RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 66604

Title: Serum Soluble Suppression of Tumorigenicity 2 as a novel inflammatory marker predict the severity of acute pancreatitis

Reviewer's code: 02445866

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: FEBS, MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor, Surgeon

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Lithuania

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2021-04-04

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-06-15 13:27

Reviewer performed review: 2021-06-18 07:12

Review time: 2 Days and 17 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [Y] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Re-review of the manuscript "Serum Soluble Suppression of Tumorigenicity 2 as a novel inflammatory marker predict the severity of acute pancreatitis" following revision. I would like to thank the authors for their efforts to meet the criticism of the primary review. Generally all the comments were met or discussed. However, the length of the "Introduction" remains excessive. I would suggest shortening it and highlighting the idea of your project. Similarly Methods should not be mixed with the aim of study at the end of the Introduction: "… In this study, we investigated whether the IL-33/ST2L pathway was involved in AP in patients with different clinical severity of AP. sST2 and IL-33 were measured in patients enrolled between January 2018 and August 2020. Expression levels of Th1- and Th2-related cytokines were detected for better understanding the mechanism of the IL-33/ST2L pathway." The conclusions in the abstract and body text have the same meaning; however wording is different and at the end of the manuscript imprecise and too complicated. I would suggest to use the "Abstract version" of the Conclusions. CONCLUSION (abstract) sST2 may be used as a novel inflammatory marker in predicting AP severity and may regulate the function and differentiation of IL-33/ST2-mediated Th1 and Th2 Lymphocytes in AP homeostasis. CONCLUSION (body text) In conclusion, the present findings demonstrated that the serum concentration of sST2 may be related to severity of AP, which revealed that elevated sST2 may be used as a novel inflammatory marker in predicting the severity of AP. On the other hand, we found an immune imbalance of Th1- and Th2-related cytokines in AP patients, suggesting sST2 might regulate the function of IL-33/ST2L-mediated Th1 and Th2 Lymphocytes in the homeostasis of AP.