

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Hepatology

**Manuscript NO:** 48762

**Title:** Efficacy of long-term rifaximin treatment for hepatic encephalopathy in the Japanese.

**Reviewer's code:** 01805500

**Reviewer's country:** Italy

**Science editor:** Li-Jun Cui

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-05-24 07:44

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-05-24 12:23

**Review time:** 4 Hours

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

I applaud the efforts made by authors, but I have major concerns. As correctly stated by authors, not having studied the West haven grade zero HE as per .....Journal of Gastroenterology. Volume 42, Issue 1, January 2007, Pages 79-82....is a great limitation



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that lessens of importance their study. Authors are warmly advised to comment at large on this issue, not putting it as limitation and that is all. The importance of ammonia levels should be debated by authors in the Discussion section at the light of the following studies, putting in evidence the difference in findings between their results and the previous ones. What are the implications of the spontaneous spleno-renal shunts in liver cirrhosis? BMC Gastroenterol. 2009 Nov 24;9:89. . Blood ammonia levels in liver cirrhosis: a clue for the presence of portosystemic collateral veins. BMC Gastroenterol. 2009 Mar 17;9:21. Finally, thinking of the survival of cirrhotics in terms of presence of shunts is a little bit reductive, playing a lot of factors, i.e., infections, malnutrition, CV disease, cancer and so on.

#### 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 Hepatology

**Manuscript NO:** 48762

**Title:** Efficacy of long-term rifaximin treatment for hepatic encephalopathy in the Japanese.

**Reviewer's code:** 03764754

**Reviewer's country:** United States

**Science editor:** Li-Jun Cui

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-05-28 12:51

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-05-29 22:32

**Review time:** 1 Day and 9 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This retrospective study was done by appropriate statistical methods, is well presented, with one exception, and has clinical importance. Its deficit is the small number of patients studied. The study has three key findings: (a) that rifaximin causes sustained

reduction of the the blood ammonia level in patients with hepatic encephalopathy, (b) that long-term rifaximin treatment did not worsen liver function and had minimal side effects, and (c) that the decrease in blood ammonia level was less in patients with larger diameter of the portosystemic shunt. The small number of patients combined with the fact that mortality did not differ between the group that received rifaximin and the group that did not does not allow, in this reviewer's opinion, any conclusion about the effect of rifaximin on death from hepatic encephalopathy. That one patient in the control group died from sepsis is inadequate as an argument for such an effect of rifaximin. I strongly suggest that the last sentence in the Results section of the Abstract "This suggests that...may be suppressed by rifaximion use>" and a similar statement in the Discussion are removed.

#### INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

##### *Google Search:*

- ☐ The same title
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- ☐ No

##### *BPG Search:*

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