

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

27th November, 2013



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (6113-review.doc).

Title: Myofibroblastic cell activation and neovascularization predict native liver survival and development of esophageal varices in biliary atresia

Authors: Janne S. Suominen, Hanna Lampela, Päivi Heikkilä, Jouko Lohi, Hannu Jalanko, Mikko P. Pakarinen

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 6113

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

Reviewer 2:

Q: The authors are advised to analyze the correlation between age and neovascularization degree.

A: This was analyzed already primarily and can now be seen as bolded text in the results.

Q: The reviewer is also interested whether liver fibrogenesis and neovascularization degree correlates with BA type. The authors are advised to exhibit the detail of BA type as well as other patient parameters including liver enzymes in a table, and analyze relationship between BA type and fibrogenesis/ neovascularization.

A: This data has now been added as table 1 and bolded text in the results. There were no significant differences between different BA subtypes in terms of fibrogenesis and neovascularization.

We thank the Reviewers and Editor for constructive criticism and hope that our revised manuscript could be considered for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

Janne S. Suominen, MD, PhD

Department of Paediatric Surgery

Children's Hospital, University of Helsinki

Stenbäckinkatu 11

Helsinki, Finland

Tel: +358 50 427 0746

Fax:+358 9 471 75314

e-mail: janne.suominen@hus.fi