

March 24, 2014

Dear Editor,

We do appreciate for your instruction and advices, which let us to view our submitted manuscript more carefully. Professional English language editing company (Edanz Editing, Edition No. C1403-32371-FengBo) provided language editing. We have revised our manuscript accordingly and updated Format according to requirements of Brief Article. Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 9075-review.doc).

Title: Effect of spleen operation on antiviral treatment in HCV-related cirrhotic patients

Author: Bo Feng, Wei Zhang, Bi-Fen Luo, Guang-Jun Song, Jian Wang, Qian Jin, Hong Qin, Lai Wei

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9075

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

Reviewer 1 (02528284)

1. The data based on the small number of findings from other investigators are not strong enough to robustly support the statement proposed. Overall the paper needs a careful reassessment of the statements proposed by the authors.

Answer: For HCV-related cirrhotic patients with hypersplenism, splenectomy or SPE can elevate levels of platelet and neutrocyte and may improve the adherence to IFN-based therapy, which were not accepted worldwide so far. Even in Japan where splenectomy and PSE were recommended for cirrhotic patients with

thrombocytopenia before initiation of IFN α treatment in Guidelines (Ref. 31), there were highly controversial. The number of every study on this topic was small, and therefore, we aimed to summarize all of these findings which we could research and proposed the position of spleen operation on HCV-related cirrhosis by a systematic review. Part of our results was in accordance with those of Ikeda et al (Ref. 14). Additionally, we reassessed our statements in the current study.

2. Abstract: ...literatures were systematically ... must be literature Abstract: ... related clinical studies...must be related to clinical studies Abstract:..... Of 372 patients .. must be From 373... Abstract:...controlled studies must be control studies Core tip: Hematology abnormalities ... must be Hematological abnormalities.

Answer: After receiving the suggestions from the reviewers, we performed language editing provided by professional English language editing company (Edanz Editing, http://www.liwenbianji.cn/about/edanz/meet_edanz), and checked spelling and grammatical errors and revised them.

3. In all sections the paper needs language editing.

Answer: We performed language editing provided by professional English language editing company (Edanz Editing, http://www.liwenbianji.cn/about/edanz/meet_edanz)

Reviewer 2 (00159305)

1. Throughout the text (including part of legends Fig 4 and 5) there are many grammatical errors that must be corrected. Perhaps, you should seek a copyediting service provided by professional English language editing company.

Answer: After receiving the suggestions from the reviewers, we performed language editing provided by professional English language editing company (Edanz Editing, http://www.liwenbianji.cn/about/edanz/meet_edanz).

2. Abstract You should follow the instructions to the authors: 1. First paragraph should be rewritten 2. Methods: it is OK. 3. Results: should be re-written as there is

confusion in the way the results are presented. 4. Conclusions: last phrase is confusing and should be rewritten. Core tip- last paragraph, please, re-written it clearer.

Answer: Following the copyediting and careful reviewing our manuscript, we re-wrote Abstract and Core tip.

3. Introduction-paragraph regarding DAA, should be re-written ;also, please, indicate references.

Answer: We re-wrote the section and added Refs.14 and 15.

4. Materials and Methods Literature retrieval: second line, please, correct “literature” instead of “literatures” Results Characteristics of included studies -paragraph 1, line 5: please, change the word “perform” with “undergo” !, otherwise the reader will understand that patients (not the surgeons) performed the operation. -paragraph 2, line 3: please, indicate how many patients with genotype 1 were treated 48 weeks; the same observation for those with genotype 2/3 for 24 weeks HCC: Last phrase: please indicate references. Discussion -page 10, 2nd paragraph, 1st phrase: please indicate references 2nd phrase: please correct grammatical errors (e.g. Moreover, etc) 3rd phrase Ref 31: it is hard to believe that all cirrhotic patients with thrombocytopenia undergo splenectomy or PSE before IFN treatment in 2014! (Guidelines cited refers to 2008?) 5th phrase-it is confused (Ref 16 is not in right place) and should be re-written -page 10, 3rd paragraph: first line: “in his” instead of “in the..” Several grammatical errors (e.g. spenectomy, literatures), please, correct Last phrase should be re-written Page 11: there are several grammatical errors (e.g. recentaly) please, correct 1st paragraph: please, see again the work of Ikeda et al: discontinuation or SVR occurred in 22%..and 28%? Last paragraph, 2nd phrase should be re-written and please, change “is yet suspicious” ! Page 12: same observations for English language -2nd paragraph .last phrase (“..” several conclusions can be drawn..” but you did not mentioned them! Conclusion is a separate section. Please, re-write the last paragraph from discussion.

Answer: After receiving the suggestions from the reviewers, we performed language

editing provided by professional English language editing company (Edanz Editing, http://www.liwenbianji.cn/about/edanz/meet_edanz), and checked spelling and grammatical errors and revised them. Some of them were re-written, and two references were added in corresponding places.

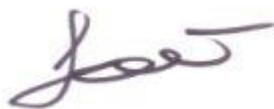
Reviewer 3 (00978228)

Since it has been reported that leukocytes, especially monocytes/macrophages are the major target of HCV infection (CVD Prevention and Control 2010;5:51-58), the authors should review and discuss about this issue.

Answer: We carefully viewed the paper (Leukocytes are the major target of hepatitis C virus infection: Possible mechanism of multiorgan involvement including the heart. CVD Prevention and Control 2010;5:51-58). It's true that HCV can infect monocytes/macrophages. However, platelets and neutrophils are the main blood cells destroyed in cirrhotic patients, which are due to spleen congestion and hypersplenism and not to direct destruction of HCV. And so, we did not discuss about it. We will pay more attention to this issue.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. If you have any questions, please contact us with no hesitation.

Yours Sincerely,



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