

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

May 05, 2014



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: ESPS Manuscript NO: 10270-edited).

Title: Covert Hepatic Encephalopathy: Agreement and Predictive Validity of Different Indices

Author: Montagnese Sara, Balistreri Esmeralda, Schiff Sami, De Rui Michele, Angeli Paolo, Zanus Giacomo, Cillo Umberto, Bombonato Giancarlo, Bolognesi Massimo, Sacerdoti David, Gatta Angelo, Merkel Carlo, Amodio Piero

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 10270

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) *The abstract directly starts with the sentence: Aim "To investigate their agreement and their prognostic value". It seems that the background is absent. At least the authors should specify that they are going to investigate the agreement and the prognostic value of different indices in HE.*

We agree with reviewer and we have added an introductory sentence reading: "The diagnosis of covert hepatic encephalopathy (CHE) relies on clinical, neurophysiological, psychometric and psychophysical indices."

(2) *In material and methods, the authors explain that 132 outpatients with cirrhosis were included. They could specify the inclusion period and if the patients were selected according to some criteria (e.g. consecutive cirrhotic outpatients in a specific period).*

We have added the required information to the text, which now reads "The patient population comprised 132 consecutive outpatients with cirrhosis (94 men; age: 58±11 years) from 1 June 2009 to 1 November 2011."

(3) *In Material and Methods (page 7, second line), authors explain that "Information were obtained on previous episodes of overt HE (clinical records plus patients' /relatives' in 76/132 patients...)". According to the Results (page 9, the second paragraph), I understand that they were able to obtain the HE history of 120 patients (and that 76 had a positive history). They should clarify on page 7 (it seems that only 76 medical histories were reviewed).*

We apologize for the confusion. Information about previous episodes of overt HE (clinical records plus patients' /relatives' reports) was obtained in 120 patients, of which 76 (63%) had a positive history. The text has been amended accordingly.

3 References and typesetting have been corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

Sara Montagnese
Dipartimento di Medicina, Università di Padova