

Response to reviewers

**Andrzej S Tarnawski, DSc, MD, PhD**  
Editor-in-Chief  
World Journal of Gastroenterology

and

**Marc D Basson, FACS, MD, PhD**  
Associate Editor  
World Journal of Gastroenterology

Dear Editors,

Hereby, we submit our revised manuscript to the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

**Manuscript NO:** 75454

**Title: Effectiveness, safety, and drug sustainability of biologic agents in elderly patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease: a single center retrospective study**

**Authors:**

Gustavo Drügg Hahn, Jean-Frédéric LeBlanc, Petra Anna Golovics, Panu Wetwittayakhleng, Abdulrahman Qatomah, Anna Wang, Levon Boodaghians, Jeremy Liu, Maryam Al Ali, Gary E. Wild, Waqqas Afif, Alain Bitton, Peter L. Lakatos, Talat Bessissow.

We thank the reviewers for their work and their important comments and questions that helped us to further improve the paper.

Please find below our detailed responses to the reviewers' comments:

*Reviewer #1*

**Scientific Quality:** Grade C (Good)

**Language Quality:** Grade A (Priority publishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (General priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** Elderly patients with IBD are the most vulnerable category of patients, so the efficacy and safety of therapy, especially with biologics, are of particular interest. The authors conducted a well-designed, single-center, retrospective study that included patients over 60 years of age treated with main biologics (IFX, ADA, VDZ, UST). The reviewer has no comments on the design of the study, methods of statistical analysis, ethical statements, interpretation of the results of the study, which was performed at a high methodological level. The study's main finding, that drug resistance, safety, and efficacy of different biologics did not differ significantly in a cohort of older adults with IBD, has important clinical implications. The physicians, based on this conclusion, get more freedom in choosing a biological therapy drug and are not limited by the need to use any particular drug (for example safer or more effective). The figures and tables are well designed and reflect the main aspects of the study. Literary references are relevant, latest, without self-citation. The manuscript can be recommended for printing without any revision.

**Thank you so much for the comments. We are very glad that our article can contribute to medical literature and practice.**

*Reviewer #2*

**Scientific Quality:** Grade B (Very good)

**Language Quality:** Grade A (Priority publishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (General priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** The title (Effectiveness, safety, and drug sustainability of biologics in elderly patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease: a single center retrospective study) reflects the main subject of the manuscript. The abstract summarizes well the work described in the manuscript. The key words (IBD; Biologics; Elderly; Efficacy; Safety, Adverse events) reflect the focus of the manuscript. The manuscript adequately describes the background, present status and significance of the study. The manuscript describes methods in adequate detail. The research objectives were achieved by the experiments used in this study. The manuscript interprets the findings adequately and appropriately, and the authors showed that biologic therapies were not different with regards to drug effectiveness and safety in the elderly IBD population. The manuscript cites appropriately the latest, important and authoritative references in the introduction and discussion sections, and it is well and coherently organized. The original findings were the effectiveness and safety regarding the biologic therapies in elderly IBD population. It is important for those professionals who treat those population.

**Thank you so much for the thorough evaluation and such positive comments.**

*(1) Science editor:*

This article investigates biologics' effectiveness, safety, and drug sustainability in elderly patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). The authors revealed that biologic therapies were not different regarding drug effectiveness and safety in the elderly IBD population. They also pointed out the side effects of biologic treatments in elderly IBD patients are few. The article has cast these crucial issues in this field of study as increasing aged IBD patients. It is an exciting and well-organized article. As reviewers noted, this article could be recommended for publication.

**Language Quality:** Grade A (Priority publishing)

**Scientific Quality:** Grade B (Very good)

**Thank you so much for the positive comments. We are very glad that our article can contribute to medical literature and practice.**

*(2) Company editor-in-chief:*

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Gastroenterology, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors. Please provide decomposable Figures (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single PowerPoint file. Please authors are required to provide standard three-line tables, that is, only the top line, bottom line, and column line are displayed, while other table lines are hidden. The contents of each cell in the table should conform to the editing specifications, and the lines of each row or column of the table should be aligned. Do not use carriage returns or spaces to replace lines or vertical lines and do not segment cell content. In order to respect and protect the author's intellectual property rights and prevent others from misappropriating figures without the author's authorization or abusing figures without indicating the source, we will indicate the author's copyright for figures originally generated by the author, and if the author has used a figure published elsewhere or that is copyrighted, the author needs to be authorized by the previous publisher or the copyright holder and/or

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**Thank you so much for the thorough evaluation and for the comments. Figures will be corrected as stated and will be put in a PowerPoint file. Tables will be corrected as mentioned as well.**

We hope that our responses are adequate to further clarify and improve our study and we thank the reviewers for their comments.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gustavo Drügg Hahn and Dr Peter L. Lakatos on behalf of all the authors,

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