

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



April 17, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: -16697-original article.doc).

Title: Capillary Refill Time as a Guide for Operational Decision-Making Process of Autoimmune Pancreatitis: Preliminary Results

Author: Pinar Yazici, MD, Ismail Ozsan, MD, Unal Aydin, MD

Running title: Surgical view of inflammatory pancreas

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

ESPS Manuscript NO:16697

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)-Reviewer: 02445717

Accept:

It is a good research article about the useful of intraoperative capillary refill time as a guide for operational decision-making process of autoimmune pancreatitis. This is a preliminary study however as say the authors large-scale clinical trials are needed to determine it's role in clinical decisions making for this very complicated entity.

(2)- Reviewer: 01191922

Major revision:

This retrospective study introduced a novel method of decision-making for the management of autoimmune pancreatitis. The limitations include small number of patients and lack of control group, thus the conclusion is not strong persuasive. Although the measurements of capillary refilling time were performed by one single clinician, the procedure is subjective and may have large deviations.

Answer: Yes you re right. This method is partially subjective. However, this point was explained in discussion section (see "limitations" part). And other possible techniques were mentioned.

(3)-Reviewer: 0009064

Major revision:

It is a retrospective cohort study on a small number of patients (only eight) with autoimmune pancreatitis (AIP) who underwent surgery. At surgery the authors noted that the pancreatic bed in the case of AIP was highly vascular and thus had a reduced capillary refilling time (CRT). That could be easily assessed at surgery by pressing on the pancreatic bed and noting down the refilling of the blanched area. They suggest that this may be taken as a guide to distinguish AIP from pancreatic cancer, thus helping the surgeon to decide on table if to go ahead with a radical vs conservative surgery.

However, this is far from convincing as no comparisons have been made with observations on other inflammatory conditions or cancer of the pancreas. The number of observations made on AIP are also much too small.

Answer: Yes you re right. This article presents results from a preliminary study. This method would be more confident if it was evaluated with a comparative study. Nevertheless this limitation was also mentioned in discussion section as a "limitation of the study". We are studying on another comparative study to investigate the efficacy of this method. However as you also know, this patient population is not very common. So the number of the study population will not be satisfying until years have passed.

(4)- Reviewer: 00043396

Accept

3. References and typesetting were corrected

Language evaluation was already done by a professional editing company (AME editor with a reference number of AMEp1485_jcv1. However if you want me to re-check, I can request them to do it.

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

Sincerely yours,



Pinar Yazici, MD

Department of General Surgery,

Sisli Etfal Training and Research Hospital, Istanbul,

Halaskargazi cad. Etfal Sok. Sisli, Turkey

Phone: +90 505 578 41 85

e-mail: drpinaryazici@gmail.com