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Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 12872-edited.doc).

Title: Usefulness of Endoscopic Ultrasound-Guided Fine Needle Aspiration in the Diagnosis of Hepatic, Gallbladder and Biliary Tract Lesions

Author: Ghassan M. Hammoud, Jamal A. Ibdah

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 12872

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 reviewers:

Reviewer 1 (503957):

"Prior to publication the authors should eliminate any advertisement for the OLYMPUS and ALOKA companies from the figures. There are several other companies (Pentax, Fujinon, Fujifilm, aso) that produce and sell EUS equipment; they are not mentioned in the review either."

Authors' response: We eliminated the mention of any company in the text and figures as the reviewer suggested.

Reviewer 2 (289684):

"Dear Author, this review article is well written with comprehensive evaluation of the literature on the requested topics. By the way I think that some parts should be deleted particularly those regarding the biliary and gallbladder drainage. This because these topics are not included in the title of the article that is limited to the role of EUS and EUS-FNA in the diagnosis of hepatic and biliary lesions. In the introduction part should be deleted the sentence that a frontal viewing linear echoendoscope is available for FNA because this prototype is not routinely used for this kind of procedures. Furthermore

greater attention should be put on the role of the pathologist and ROSE and the section on limitations and complications should be increased with a more extensive report on these”

Authors’ response: We thank the reviewer for the supporting comments. We modified the manuscript to address the reviewer’s suggestions:

1. We modified the title to “Usefulness of Endoscopic Ultrasound-Guided Fine Needle Aspiration in the Diagnosis of Hepatic, Gallbladder and Biliary Tract Lesions” such that the topics on gallbladder/biliary can be included in the text.
2. The text was modified as the reviewer suggested. Sections on ROSE and limitations/complications were added/expanded in the revised manuscript as suggested.

Reviewer 3 (1047575):

“1. The authors summarized the usage of EUS-FNA in the diagnosis of hepatic and biliary tract lesions comprehensively, however, we did not see a focal point in the manuscript. Of course, there is not a summary to summarize the content of the article generally. 2. In clinics, the usage of CT or US-FNA is more common than EUS-FNA. EUS-FNA may be sensitive in diagnosing focal malignant liver lesions confined to left hepatic lobe. Therefore, the effect of EUS-FNA is exaggerated in this review. 3. If the authors listed the diagnostic data of different diagnostic methods in a table, it will attract the reader more effectively. 4. Where are the figures from (Figure 3-6)? It should be noted in the manuscript.”

Authors’ response: We modified the manuscript to address the reviewer comments/suggestions:

1. A summary was added to the revised manuscript.
2. We appreciate the reviewer comments, this was addressed in the limitations section.
3. A table was added as the reviewer suggested.
4. All figures are included in the manuscript.

3. References and typesetting were corrected.

Thank you again for considering our manuscript for publication in the *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*.

Sincerely yours,



Jamal A. Ibdah, MD, PhD