

Dear Editor,

please find attached the manuscript entitled: “*Incidence of Umbilical Catheter-Associated Thrombosis of the Portal System: a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis*”.

The present work has been already submitted to the World Journal of Hepatology, but a number of minor issues were raised which precluded publication in its previous form. However, we were given the possibility to submit a revised manuscript by providing additional data and addressing the issues raised by the reviewers.

Hereby we are submitting the revision of the paper including a complete point-by-point response to each of the reviewer comments. All concerns raised by the reviewer have been addressed directly in the cover letter and in the main body of the paper.

Find below the concerns raised by the reviewers and our answers to the comments.

Reviewer #1

General comments

This is the first systematic review specifically investigating the issue of UVC-related PVT. One of the most important limitations that emerged when reviewing the scientific literature was the extreme heterogeneity of study designs across the investigated studies. As a whole, however, the data confirmed that US is a valid, non-invasive, bed-side diagnostic technique for PVT detection. A meticulous assessment of UVC tip position is needed to decrease catheter-related

complications. This is a very good study with accurate selection of the included studies and detailed appropriate statistics. However many words were stuck together, so I made the corrections plus some minor linguistic mistakes that appear in red (view attached file) PVC: please use the whole term LMWH: please use the whole term I suggest that this paper gets accepted for publication after minor revisions.

Re: Many thanks for the comments. We have changed the main text according to the suggestions of the reviewer.

Company editor-in-chief

(1) Core-tip and audio is missing.

Re: We provided the core-tip in the manuscript file and the required audio file.

(2) Please update manuscript format per journal guidelines.

Re: We changed the manuscript accordingly to journal guidelines.

(3) Please provide Copyright License Agreement and *Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form.

Re: Copyright License Agreement and Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form

(4) Figure 3 is missing in the manuscript.

Re: We have added Figure 3 in the manuscript.

(5) As there are still linguistic errors in the manuscript, the paper could benefit from further English polishing by a professional English editing company, please provide a Non-Native Speakers of English Editing Certificate.

Re: We have corrected the spelling and linguistic errors in the manuscript. Also, a new English Certificate has been provided.

We hope that the issues raised by the reviewer have been adequately addressed in the previous answers.

The present work is solely submitted to the *World Journal of Hepatology* and none of the authors has any potential conflict of interest related to this manuscript.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first systematic review specifically investigating the incidence of a dreadful complication such as portal vein thrombosis following umbilical vein catheterization in neonates. Although multiple observational studies have provided a general overview about the risk of catheter-related portal vein thrombosis, we identified relevant gaps in knowledge about the optimal approach of this complication and highlighted the need for prospective randomized studies and updated guidelines.

We believe that this study may enrich the body of knowledge about liver-related complications in the field of Neonatology.

We hope this study could be of interest for publication in the prestigious *World Journal of Hepatology* journal.

Best Regards

Dr. Iliana Bersani