

June 24th, 2021

Prof. Sami Akbulut, FACS, MD

Prof. Vassilios Papalois, FEBS, FICS, FRCS, MD, PhD

Prof. Maurizio Salvadori, MD

Editors-in-Chief

World Journal of Transplantation

Dear Prof. Akbulut, Papalois, and Salvadori:

We are pleased to re-submit for publication our review article titled: *"Management of biliary atresia: to transplant or not to transplant"*.

We are grateful to the editors and reviewer for providing insightful feedback on our study. We have carefully reviewed the recommendations and have revised our manuscript accordingly. Addressing each of their comments has certainly improved our manuscript. Detailed responses to the reviewers' comments are provided below.

Reviewer 1:

Comment 1.1: *"1. Please add more recent references in the last 5 years, especially in the part of "FACTORS FAVORING TRANSPLANT FREE SURVIVAL AFTER KASAI"."*

Response:

Thank you for your comment. We added several more recent references.

Comment 1.2: *"2. Please add the cited references in the corresponding annotated text (attachment is the annotated word)."*

Response:

Thank you. We added the required references.

Comment 1.3: *"3. Please clarify or specify the unclear statement which annotated (attachment is the annotated word)."*

Response:

We clarified the sentence to read:

“Sasaki et al. demonstrated that presence of symptomatic portal hypertension (gastro-esophageal varices requiring treatment), but not hypersplenism nor cholangitis, was found to be a significant risk factor in multivariate logistic regression analysis for NLS^[29]”

Comment 1.4: *“4. The relevant factors listed in Table 1 and Table 2 should be described more meaningfully, such as protective factors or risk factors, and please increase the threshold data from the cited literature of various specific factors that may affect the prognosis, such as age limit, bilirubin level, etc.”*

Response:

We would like to thank the reviewer for their comment. Unfortunately, there are several studies reporting on the factors listed in Tables 1 and 2, they have either similar or conflicting findings, and these results are sometimes based on univariable analyses and sometimes on multivariable analyses. Therefore, it is not possible to simply list cutoffs and thresholds. However, we further clarified and expanded on our results to help the reader better understand the information presented.

Comment 1.5: *“5. It seems that in this review, there were too many listed conclusions from literature and less of the author’s own critical thinking, perspectives, and experiences. The listed cited results were not logically organized. Please reorganize the results and add more of the author’s own experiences and perspectives.”*

Response:

Thank you for your comment. We further organized and elaborated on our results in a more logically organized fashion. Additionally, we added more information based on our own experiences and perspectives.

Science Editor:

Comment E.1: *“1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a minireview of the management of biliary atresia. The topic is within the scope of the WJT. (1) Classification: Grade C; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: This is a good review of the hot topic regarding the management of biliary atresia. However, the following issues remain to be clarified. Please add more recent references in the last 5 years. The listed cited results were not logically organized.”*

Please reorganize the results and add more of the author's own experiences and perspectives. The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered"

Response:

We appreciate the Editor's comments. We have added more recent references. We have also updated our text with more clarity and in more detail. Additionally, we further expanded on our own experiences and perspectives.

Comment E.2: *"(3) Format: There are 2 tables; (4) References: A total of 67 references are cited, including 8 references published in the last 3 years; (5) Self-cited references: There are 1 self-cited references. The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%. Please keep the reasonable self-citations (i.e. those that are most closely related to the topic of the manuscript) and remove all other improper self-citations. If the authors fail to address the critical issue of self-citation, the editing process of this manuscript will be terminated; and (6) References recommendations: The authors have the right to refuse to cite improper references recommended by the peer reviewer(s), especially references published by the peer reviewer(s) him/herself (themselves). If the authors find the peer reviewer(s) request for the authors to cite improper references published by him/herself (themselves), please send the peer reviewer's ID number to editorialoffice@wjgnet.com. The Editorial Office will close and remove the peer reviewer from the F6Publishing system immediately."*

Response:

We appreciate your comments. The third author of our manuscript (SPA) has made significant contributions to the field of liver transplantation for biliary atresia, and we have cited two relevant studies that are crucial to reference on this topic. These four out of 76 references, represent 5% and are not cited with the intention to increase anyone's citations but rather discuss only what is necessary for the topic. We have cited the reference mentioned by the reviewer as well.

Comment E.3: *"2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade B."*

Response:

We appreciate your assessment.

Comment E.4: *"3 Academic norms and rules: The authors should provide the signed Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and Copyright License Agreement. No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search. 4 Supplementary comments: This is an invited manuscript. No financial support was obtained for the study. The topic has not previously been published in the WJT. 5 Issues raised: I have changed the manuscript type "Review" to "Minireviews". 6 Recommendation: Conditionally accepted."*

Response:

We provided the signed Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and Copyright License Agreement. Thank you for changing the manuscript type and for conditionally accepting our manuscript.

We hope that with these revisions, our work is felt appropriate to publish in *World Journal of Transplantation* and perceived as educational to the Journal's readership. Thank you again for inviting us to submit a revision our work to your journal. We would be pleased to answer any additional concerns or questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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