



Revision letter

Leuven, 6 January 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 15266-review.doc).

Title: Withdrawal of anti-TNF α therapy in inflammatory bowel disease

Author: Konstantinos Papamichael, Severine Vermeire

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 15266

We would like to thank the reviewers for their valuable comments and suggestions. The manuscript has been revised and improved according to the suggestions of the reviewers and the "Revision Policies of BPG for Editorial". We have highlighted the changes in the manuscript by using a different color (yellow).

1. Format and title have been updated

2. References and typesetting were corrected

3. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers:

- The differences between UC and CD regarding the establishment of complete mucosal healing and clinical remission, the heterogeneity of patients and the consequences of relapse have been pointed out in the "Withdrawal of anti-TNF α therapy in inflammatory bowel disease. Is it feasible?" section.

- Indeed, prediction of a poor disease prognosis after discontinuation of anti-TNF therapy should include not only demographic features and smoking but also perhaps imaging characteristics. For example internal fistulas, intestinal stenosis or complex perianal fistulising disease may predict an early relapse after discontinuation of anti-TNF therapy. This comment was added to the "In whom?" section.

- We didn't describe the data from clinical trials at greater length as this was not the main goal of this editorial. Our intention was to provide a critical appraisal of the current available data regarding discontinuation of anti-TNF α therapy in IBD and the proposed drug withdrawal strategies and not to make a detailed review on this topic. However, we agree that different characteristics of the subjects in these trials may also be the reason for having a

great discrepancy in the results. This comment was added to the "Withdrawal of anti-TNF α therapy in inflammatory bowel disease. Is it feasible?" section.

Sincerely yours,

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