Author's response to reviews

Title: Blood ammonia levels in liver cirrhosis: a clue for the presence of esophageal varices.

Authors:

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Version: 3 Date: 24 February 2009

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

I would like to thank you very much for this great opportunity. At the same instance, on the behalf of all the Authors, I want to thank warmly prof. De franchis for his accurate and prestigious review.

Yours sincerely,

G. tarantino, MD

Reviewer’s report

Title: Blood ammonia levels in liver cirrhosis: a clue for the presence of esophageal varices.
Version: 2 Date: 6 February 2009
Reviewer: Roberto de Franchis
Reviewer’s report:
Minor essential revisions

**Question:** An important piece of information which is missing is the number of patients with NH4 levels above the 42 microMoles threshold who had no varices. This would give a measure of the number of unnecessary endoscopies that would have been made if the threshold was adopted.

**Answer:** There were 43 patients (28.1%) who were false positive. This sentence was added in the Results section, Accuracy subsection.

**Question:** The English form has somewhat improved, but the paper still needs revision by a native English speaker, since the form is awkward in several points.

**Answer:** I hope that the further BMC editing will improve the language.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interest