Author's response to reviews

Title: New foe treated with old guns - Role of steroids for the treatment of acute severe hepatitis E

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

we hereby submit our case report entitled “New foe treated with old guns – Role of steroids for the treatment of acute severe hepatitis E” for publication in BMC Gastroenterology.

A male patient presented to our clinic with acute liver failure of unknown origin. Liver biopsy showed an acute hepatitis and drug-induced liver injury was assumed. Steroid treatment was initiated. Diagnosis of an autochthonous hepatitis E as etiology for the acute liver failure in this patient was delayed due to inconclusive microbiological test results. However, under sustained steroid treatment liver function recovered and HEV infection resolved.

Our case shows that steroid treatment in acute HEV infection is safe and may offer a treatment option for HEV-induced liver failure. We therefore hope that you may consider our case report for publication in BMC Gastroenterology; especially, since we believe that our case report will provoke a discussion regarding the use of steroids to control the devastating immune reaction in patients with acute viral hepatitis E, and therefore, to bridge such patients to full recovery.

The case report has not been submitted elsewhere and only includes our own and exclusive case-related data. All authors declare that they do not have any conflict of interest.

Sincerely yours,
Marcial Sebode and Henning Wege