

Peer Review File

Article Information: <https://dx.doi.org/10.21037/apm-23-173>

Reviewer A

Comment 1: line 178/9: the sentence contains more than one verb

Reply 1: Thank you for this comment – this has been corrected in the revised submission.

Comment 2: line 206: treatment of hepatic encephalopathy with zinc is not supported by the major guidelines, which should be made clearer or the statement should be left out.

Reply 2: Thank you for this comment – the revised statement should now be clear that this is not part of major society guidelines but a consideration based on some evidence if symptoms are refractory and other management options exhausted.

Reviewer B

Comment 1: Page 2, line 48: consider comma for “complications, such as ascites...” (there are other sentences throughout with “such as” that can utilize comma)

Reply 1: Thank you – this change was made in the revised manuscript.

Comment 2: Page 2, line 50: consider comma for “function, and this...”

Reply 2: Thank you – this change was made and is now reflected in the revised manuscript.

Comment 3: Page 3, line 85: consider comma for “availability, and thus, ...”

Reply 3: Thank you – this change was made in the revised manuscript.

Comment 4: Page 6, line 174: sentence is very long, consider breaking it up “TIPS is controversial in patients with HCC, and the presence of HCC has traditionally been considered a contraindication given the risk of tumor seeding. However, some recent studies have suggested that TIPS can be effective in carefully selected patients with HCC(50-52), although this management approach has not been widely adopted.”

Reply 4: The semicolon was replaced by a period as suggested in the comment above.

Comment 5: Page 6, line 179: long sentence, consider dividing to 2: “This poses a..”

Reply 5: Thank you – the punctuation was changed and this is now two separate sentences in the revised manuscript.

Comment 6: Figure 1: the center, lower box has a typo for “decompensation”

Reply 6: Thank you for noting this – this is now reflected in the updated figure.