

## Supplementary Materials

**Table S1.** Modifications of liver tests during the study.

	<b>T0</b>	<b>T1</b>	<i>P value</i>
<u>HMB GROUP (14 patients)</u>			
AST (U/L)	$40.55 \pm 26$	$34.11 \pm 23$	N.S.
ALT (U/L)	$33.6 \pm 20$	$30.11 \pm 21$	N.S.
Gamma GT (U/L)	$238.37 \pm 311$	$200 \pm 286$	N.S.
Total Bilirubin (mg/dl)	$1.4 \pm 0.3$	$1.8 \pm 0.17$	N.S.
Direct Bilirubin (mg/dl)	$0.5 \pm 0.3$	$0.4 \pm 0.2$	N.S.
MELD	$9 \pm 2.7$	$8.5 \pm 2.4$	$9.2 \pm 4.6$
CHILD-PUG SCORE	$5.6 \pm 0.8$	$5.6 \pm 0.6$	$5.5 \pm 0.7$
	<b>T0</b>	<b>T1</b>	<i>P value</i>
<u>PLACEBO GROUP (10 patients)</u>			
AST (U/L)	$40 \pm 24$	$38 \pm 16$	N.S.
ALT (U/L)	$36.7 \pm 11$	$40 \pm 10$	N.S.
Gamma GT (U/L)	$148 \pm 179$	$105 \pm 88$	N.S.
Total Bilirubin (mg/dl)	$1.13 \pm 0.6$	$1.4 \pm 0.8$	N.S.
Direct Bilirubin (mg/dl)	$0.4 \pm 0.2$	$0.5 \pm 0.3$	N.S.
MELD	$9.8 \pm 3.2$	$9.9 \pm 2.6$	$9.9 \pm 2.5$
CHILD-PUG SCORE	$5.6 \pm 0.9$	$5.6 \pm 0.7$	$5.6 \pm 0.7$

Value expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD. Abbreviations: AST (aspartate aminotransferase), ALT (Alanine Aminotrasferase), Gamma GT (Gamma Glutamyl Transferase).

**Table S2.** Modifications of cognitive test during the study.

	<b>T0</b>	<b>T1</b>	<b>T2</b>
<u>HMB GROUP (14 patients)</u>			
PHES	$-2 \pm 1.5$	$-2.3 \pm 2.3$	$-2 \pm 1.6$
ANT	$17 \pm 6$	$19 \pm 4$	$20 \pm 4$
	<b>T0</b>	<b>T1</b>	<b>T2</b>
<u>PLACEBO GROUP (10 patients)</u>			
PHES	$-1 \pm 3$	$-0.4 \pm 2.1$	$0 \pm 0.8$
ANT	$21 \pm 6$	$21 \pm 4$	$19 \pm 5$

Value expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD. Abbreviations: PHES (Psychometric Hepatic Encephalopathy Score), ANT (Animal Naming Test).