

June 29, 2014



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format.

Title: Profiling Cellular Bioenergetics, Glutathione Levels and Caspase Activities in Stomach Biopsies

Author: Ali S Alfazari, Bayan Al-Dabbagh, Wafa Al-Dhaheri, Mazen S Taha, Ahmad A Chebli, Eva M Fontagnier, Zaher Koutoubi, Jose Kochiyi, Sherif M Karam, Abdul-Kader Souid

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 10826

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers:

(1) Reviewer 1:

- a. **Comment:** Interesting study.

Response: Thank you.

- b. **Comment:** Its major limitation is the inclusion of patients with either normal or minor gastric pathology. This has to be mentioned and stated at the discussion, as well as the clinical impact of these measurements need to be further explored in future studies with patients with major gastric pathology.

Response: A paragraph in the discussion section has been added to clarify these stated limitations.

(2) Reviewer 2:

- a. **Comment:** Please shorten the method section.

Response: The method section is now significantly shortened and previously published experimental procedures have been cited.

- b. **Comment:** Add ...biopsies of patients to the title.

Response: Done. The title now reads: "Profiling Cellular Bioenergetics, Glutathione Levels and Caspase Activities in Stomach Biopsies of Patients with Upper Gastrointestinal Symptoms"

- c. **Comment:** Under the "gastric biopsies" heading you should mention that you base the biomarker content on tissue wet weight in mg. How much biopsy material in mg did you obtain per patient?

Response: The following clarification has been added: "Values of the measured biomarkers were expressed per specimen wet weight (in mg)." As stated (Methods, Gastric Biopsies), "After collecting samples for standard patient care, five to eight additional mucosal biopsies were collected for the purpose of this study. The samples (7.7-30 mg each) varied in dimensions from 1x1 to 2x3 mm."

- d. **Comment:** Include a table about the clinical GI-diagnoses of the patients.

Response: The clinical diagnosis has been added to Tables 1 and 2.

- e. **Comment:** In the conclusion of the abstract cancel the first sentence and add: "The corpus mucosa was metabolically more active than the tissue in the antrum".

Response: Done

- f. **Comment:** Use "pathophysiology" instead of "pathobiology".

Response: Done

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Respectfully,

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