

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

September 3, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 12767-edited.doc).

Title: Clinical response and predictors in ulcerative colitis after initial corticosteroid treatment

Author: Jin Li, Fan Wang, Hong-Jie Zhang, Jian-Qiu Sheng, Wen-Feng Yan, Min-Xing Ma, Ru-Ying Fan, Fang Gu, Chuan-Feng Li, Da-Fan Chen, Ping Zheng, Yu-Pei Gu, Qian Cao, Hong Yang, Jia-Ming Qian, Pin-Jin Hu, Bing Xia

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

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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 reviewer

(1) To simplify the article and make it easy to understand, we adjusted and merged partial tables (previous Table 1 and Table 2) into one table, in which auxiliary meditation was regarded as part of the patients' characteristics, just like demographic, clinical and laboratory characteristics. Meanwhile, as for only seven surgical cases within one year, we deleted Figure 2 (Cumulative surgery rates of ulcerative colitis cases after initial start of corticosteroid). Secondly, we rearranged the part of RESULTS with several subheads and in a more accessible order to the readers, "1.Patient characteristics; 2.Short-term response (within one month); 3.Long-term response (within one year); 4.Predictors for clinical response". In the part of DISCUSSION, we deleted the repeated words about the study results, and rearranged the order of discussion according to the order of RESULTS. Besides, some prolix words were deleted to highlight the core points in this article.

(2) The measuring units throughout the paper were revised, such as from g/L to mg/dL.

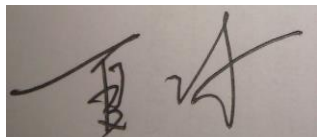
(3) This study mainly concentrated on clinical outcomes within one month and within one year after start of corticosteroid treatment in ulcerative colitis. The terms of "primary response" and "primary non-response", as this study and previous studies defined, were a summary of the condition within one month. For example, if one patient reached prolonged remission and no symptoms exacerbated within one month, he will be defined "primary response" within one month; if he exacerbated at 10th day after meditation of corticosteroid, he will be classified into "primary non-response" within one month, although he might choose rescue therapy (such as Cyclosporine A and infliximab) and get alleviation at 30th day. This also applied to "corticosteroid dependence" and "prolonged response", in which both definition included adequate information from 1st month to 12th month after start of meditation. It's a pity that we improperly used the terms "at one month" and "at one year", which gave readers the wrong impression that this study only analyzed the condition at 1st month and at 12th month and ignored the condition from 1st to 12th month. Actually, it was according to the condition from 1st to 12th month that the patients were classified into groups of "corticosteroid dependence" and "prolonged

response” respectively. Therefore, we changed the terms of “at one month” and “at one year” into “within one month” and “within one year”. Related words which might confound readers were also revised.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bing Xia' in Chinese characters, written on a light-colored background.

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