

December 01, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 14992-revised manuscript.doc).

**Title:** Influence of Proton Pump Inhibitors on Gastritis diagnosis and Pathologic Gastric Changes

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**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 14992

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

1-Lack of data on the duration of patient's exposure to PPI:

We agree with the reviewer that our study is limited by the lack of data on the duration of the patient's exposure to PPIs. However, the goal of our study was not to document a correlation between the duration of PPIs exposure and its effect on H.pylori but rather to demonstrate that Patients with gastritis exposed to PPI are less likely to receive a diagnosis of H. Pylori gastritis. In fact, the evaluation of gastric biopsies by pathologists is often made without knowledge of the duration of PPIs exposure and very often without knowledge of whether any given patient was exposed or not to PPIs.

However to answer the reviewer's comment and while we acknowledged this limitation we also made a revision by indicating in our manuscript the following:

-“This however reflects the actual parameters under which gastric biopsies are evaluated by pathologists in our population.”

2-How thorough and rigorous was the diagnosis of Hp and non-Hp gastritis (i.e., true Hp-negative v/s masked Hp gastritis)

We agree with the reviewer that this is a legitimate concern. We used immunohistochemical staining, a routine but sensitive method of detection, as recommended by professional societies to detect H. pylori organisms. However, determining the rate of true Hp-negative would have required -in addition to negative staining- negative H. pylori culture and negative IgG H. pylori serology. However, again the goal of our study was not to determine the rate of true Hp-negative, but to show that that in a routine clinical practice, patients with gastritis exposed to PPI are less likely to receive a diagnosis of H. Pylori gastritis.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Soumana Nasser'.

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