

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

December 7, 2014



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 15004-revised.doc).

Title: Eradication rate and histological changes after *Helicobacter pylori* eradication treatment in gastric cancer patients following subtotal gastrectomy

Author: Jae Jin Hwang, Dong Ho Lee, Kyu Keum Kang, Ae-Ra Lee, Hyuk Yoon, Cheol Min Shin, Young Soo Park, Nayoung Kim

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 15004

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

Reviewer No: 02446261

(1) The rule for using abbreviation in the paper is to use the entire word or words first and provide abbreviation in the brackets for the benefit of their readers.

Answer: Thank you for the reviewer's comment. We fully agree with the reviewer's comment. We used the entire words first and provide abbreviation in the brackets as follows;

Introduction section : IM -> intestinal metaplasia (IM)

Results section : ESD -> endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD)

EGC -> early gastric cancer (EGC)

AGC -> advanced gastric cancer (AGC)

(2) Secondly why have the authors restricted their database from 2004 to 2010? Is it because the authors were looking for 3 year survival data on their gastric cancer patients or some other reasons? Reading this paper one would assume that they will include patients up to 2012 if they were looking for one year data on the histological changes following eradication therapy.

Answer: Thank you for the reviewer's comment. We just focused the eradication rate and histological changes 12 months after *Helicobacter pylori* eradication treatment from 2004 to 2010 in this study. We did not include patients up to 2012 in this study. We will include patients up to 2015 in our next study as review's comments.

(3) I am just curious to know what was 1 yr, 3 yr and 5 yr survival rates of their patients following subtotal gastrectomy for gastric carcinoma.

Answer: Thank you for the reviewer's comment. Because of the retrospective design of this study, we could not fully elucidate the 1 yr, 3 yr and 5 yr survival rates of the patients. In our next study, we will evaluate and analyze the 1 yr, 3 yr and 5 yr survival rates of the patients as reviewer's comment.

(4) I would use the word "second-line therapy" rather than rescue therapy in patients who failed first line treatment.

Answer: Thank you for the reviewer's comment. We fully agree with the reviewer's comment. We corrected "rescue therapy" to "second-line therapy".

(5) Why so many patients - 204 were not analyzed histologically following H pylori eradication? Is it because they died or lost to follow-up? It would be appropriate to provide some explanation for this failure to analyze such a large group of patients.

Answer: Thank you for the reviewer's comment. The 204 patients were not examined for histological changes after eradication because they were lost to follow-up. We attempted to examine for histological changes after eradication, but the patients did not want to be examined for histological changes despite our efforts to educate them regarding the disease. We added a sentence on Characteristics of patients in the Results section.

(6) Similarly loss of 32 patients in second line treatment group needs more explanation.

Thank you for the reviewer's comment. We attempted to eradicate *H. pylori* infection with second-line therapy. However, the eradication therapy was not successful in most patients because of either poor compliance or adverse events. In addition, the patients did not want to be examined for histological changes despite our efforts to educate them regarding the disease. We added a paragraph on Characteristics of patients in the Results section.

(7) Lastly there are few grammatical and syntax errors which need attending in the revised manuscript.

Answer: Thank you for the reviewer's comment. We got the manuscript corrected by professional English language editing company.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

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