

January 17, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed our revised manuscript in Word format (file name: WJG 15380-Edited Clean 16-01-15).

**Title: Are children on jejunal feeds at risk of iron deficiency?.**

**Authors:** Li-Zsa Tan, Susan E Adams, Alison Kennedy, Felicity AC Fletcher, Helen Kepreotes, Chee Y Ooi

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 15380

We thank you for the helpful comments and suggestions made by the reviewers regarding the manuscript. Please find a point-by-point response format to all comments (with reference to the revised manuscript with tracked changes).

**Reviewer 1:**

1. *What type of underlying disorder did the patients have; were there patients with any disorder that might influence iron metabolism or bleeding or digestion? If so, it should be mentioned.*

We have now included a new table (Table 1) summarizing the underlying diagnoses of each of our patients. None of our patients had documented disorders that affect iron metabolism, and none were known to have chronic blood loss.

2. *What was the age of the children, and did they otherwise grow and develop normally?*

The age of each child (years) at the time of commencement of jejunal feeds as well as their corresponding weight z-scores are now summarized in Table 1. The weight z-scores give an indication as to their general growth.

3. *And what nutrition did the patients receive; was the iron intake similar to that of typical normal food of children with the equivalent age?*

Each of our patients were reviewed by a paediatric dietician, and received age appropriate formula feeds. Their formula intake fulfilled the recommended daily allowance of iron as calculated by their dietician.

## **Reviewer 2:**

1. *I have some minor inputs.*

We thank the reviewer for the various edits made throughout the manuscript.

2. *A footnote for the figure is needed.*

The error has been noted with thanks. We have amended the figure to provide a more informative plot as well as to depict the change in serum iron levels pre and post commencement of jejunal feeds.

We thank you and the reviewers for the helpful comments which have enhanced the quality of the revised manuscript. We hope that you find our revised manuscript suitable for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Yours sincerely,

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