

January 14, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 1563-Edited.doc).

**Title:** *Sarcina ventriculi* of the stomach: A case report

**Author:** Shiva K Ratuapli, Dora M Lam-Himlin, Russell I Heigh

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 1563

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, and the changes have been highlighted in yellow.

(1) **Comment:** Adding a summary table of the eight reported cases is recommended to aid understanding of the characteristics of gastric infection with *Sarcina ventriculi*.

**Response:** We thank the reviewer for this suggestion. A summary table explaining the clinical, endoscopic and histological findings of all the eight cases has now been added to the manuscript.

(2) **Comment:** The authors showed that a large amount of retained food in the stomach is a characteristic of gastric infection with *Sarcina ventriculi*. This suggests that lower mobility in the stomach causes overgrowth of bacteria. Please clearly state this in the Discussion section.

**Response:** We agree with the reviewer with this comment. We now clearly stated this point in the paragraph # 3 of the "Discussion" section of the manuscript as follows: "Hence impaired emptying of stomach could potentially lead to the growth of *Sarcina* in the stomach."

(3) **Comment:** Please state whether *Helicobacter pylori* infection was present

**Response:** *H. Pylori* was not present, both in routine HE stain and by immunostaining. We now mentioned in the paragraph # 4 of the "Case Report" section of the manuscript as follows: "Biopsies were negative for *Helicobacter pylori*, both by routine H & E staining and by immunohistochemical staining."

(4) **Comment:** How did the authors pathologically diagnose the gastric infection with *Sarcina ventriculi*? Was any specific staining used for the bacteria?

**Response:** The *Sarcina* organisms were identified on routine H&E stain, and no additional special stains or immunolabeling was performed. Based on prior studies [1],

the tetrad morphology and size are characteristic enough to establish a diagnosis without further ancillary testing. This point has now been mentioned in the paragraph # 4 of the "Case Report" section of the manuscript.

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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**Reference:**

1 Lam-Himlin D, Tsiatis AC, Montgomery E, Pai RK, Brown JA, Razavi M, Lamps L, Eshleman JR, Bhagavan B, Anders RA. Sarcina organisms in the gastrointestinal tract: a clinicopathologic and molecular study. *Am J Surg Pathol* 2011; **35**(11): 1700-1705 [PMID: 21997690 PMCID: 3193598 DOI: 10.1097/PAS.0b013e31822911e6 00000478-201111000-00011 [pii]]