

Answering reviewers

For manuscript number 21209 in the *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Pharmacology and Therapeutics*.

Reviewer number 00483653

Below I address every issue raised by the reviewer:

1. I agree, the reference was missing from the sentence. I have inserted the correct reference.
2. I agree, the text was somewhat confusing in its layout. I have now moved a sentence so as to clarify the discussion.
3. I feel that the question raised by the reviewer at this point is already discussed in sufficient detail.
4. I agree, references are put in and phrasing is changed.
5. As to the issue the reviewer raises regarding ESR and relapse rate, the article text is correct. Please go to page 436 in the quoted article to verify.
6. See explanation in point 5 above.
7. I agree. "High age" is replaced with "advanced age".
8. I disagree with the reviewers need for clarification. I feel that the text clearly states one relative risk figure to be for the entire 30-year period, whereas the two other relative risk figures show a time trend with relative risk decreasing over two separate time periods.
9. The suggested reference is included. However, I disagree with the need for further discussion/speculation.
10. I disagree. I feel that raising the issue of doctor-patient information goes beyond the scope of the current article.

We hope that these clarifications are sufficient.

In conclusion, we are very pleased that the article achieved an overall classification of grade B (very good).

Kind regards,

Magnus H. Wanderås, first author, on behalf of the other authors.