

Response to Reviewers

Reviewer 1 (01213502)

- We would like to thank the reviewer for the positive comments regarding the ‘interesting’ nature of our paper which they state ‘may have clinical benefit for differential diagnosis in difficult cases’ of HD.
- We have added further information regarding our ‘imperforate anus control samples’ in our Methods section on Page 6, as suggested by the reviewer, stating that these patients did not have HD.
- We have also corrected the abbreviation of ‘PDGFR α^+ ’, as suggested.

Reviewer 2 (00994809)

- We would like to thank the reviewer for their positive comments regarding ‘the important point to show the distribution of these cells in gastrointestinal disease’.
- We have added further explanations regarding our aim and discussion of the possible functions of PDGFR α^+ -cells in HD, as suggested by this reviewer, on page 8.
- We have also improved the histological images with arrows and magnification details as suggested by the reviewer. In addition, we have attached the entire gel image as suggested by the reviewer.
- We feel that Western Blot is a highly specific and sensitive protein analysis technique, which yields highly informative data, thus we favour this technique for our study of PDGFR α^+ -cells in HD.
- We have added further information about the controls samples, as suggested by this reviewer on page 6 of the Methods section.

We hope that the revised manuscript is now to your satisfaction.