

Ref: 25584

Title: Nonbismuth Concomitant Quadruple Therapy for *Helicobacter pylori* Eradication in Chinese Regions: A Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials

Dear Editors and Reviewer of World Journal of Gastroenterology,

We sincerely appreciate your review in our manuscript entitled "Nonbismuth Concomitant Quadruple Therapy for *Helicobacter pylori* Eradication in Chinese Regions: A Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials". According to the comments of the editors and the reviewers, we have revised the manuscript and made corrections as the followings. We hope that the revised manuscript will now be suitable for publication in your journal.

Sincerely Yours,

Ka-Wai Tam

Review comments:

Reviewer #1:

- This meta-analysis conducted on reports on Chinese populations from Taiwan, China and Singapore is based on the concept that eradication rates in response to the treatment of *H Pylori* infection may differ in Chinese populations from that in other ethnic communities. Out of 990 studies reviewed only 6 randomized controlled studies met the required criteria. The conclusion from these six trials is that non-bismuth concomitant quadruple therapy results in a higher eradication rate and better compliance and fewer adverse effects than either triple therapy or sequential therapy. These conclusions are however slenderly based on the following findings:-  
**ERADICATION** In 2 out of 3 trials comparing concomitant quadruple therapy with triple therapy two showed a significantly higher eradication rate (91.2% vs 77.9%) and one showed no difference (81.7% vs 83.2%). In 3 trials comparing quadruple therapy with sequential therapy there was no significant difference in eradication rates (86.9% vs 86.0%)  
**COMPLIANCE** In the 3 trials comparing concomitant quadruple therapy with triple therapy there was no significant difference between compliance rates In the 3 trials comparing concomitant quadruple therapy with sequential therapy

there was greater compliance with concomitant quadruple therapy but the difference was not significant. ADVERSE EFFECTS In only 2 studies comparing concomitant quadruple therapy with sequential therapy the adverse effects were reported and were similar, but in 3 studies comparing concomitant quadruple therapy with triple therapy just one study showed more but mild adverse effects with concomitant quadruple therapy. These findings need to be made out more clearly in the Abstract. The paper would also benefit from an additional Table showing the above findings clearly. The findings that are already shown in the present Figures 2 and 3 would not be clear to any readers who are non-statisticians.

**Response:** Thank you for your comment. We added words in the Abstract to make the findings more clearly. However, we think that additional table of these findings will be duplicated with the Figures 2 and 3, and forest plots are quite easy to understand for general readers.

- The English needs to be made clearer in several places:- Page 6, Line 3 should read:- 'are needed within specific regions' Page 7 Study selection, First Line. Should read- 'The following studies were selected for analysis'. 4th.Line. Delete 'those evaluated na?ve adult' and read 'Patients aged 18 years or over'. Page 8, 1st. and 2nd. Lines. Should read:- '...following criteria were present: patients enrolled in the trials who were proven to have had previous H pylori infection with ...'. Page 10. 2nd. Line 'Thus six' should read 'Thus only six'. 8th. Line. 'test' should read 'tests'. Page 11. Line 6. 'methodological quality' should read simply as:- 'details'.

**Response:** Thank you for your comment. We changed the words as your suggestion.

- Page 14. 4th. Line from the bottom The statement that 'the compliance with concomitant therapy was higher' needs qualifying. It was higher, but not significantly, in comparison with sequential therapy.

**Response:** Thank you for your comment. In the paragraph, we had emphasized that "Although the eradication rates of nonbismuth concomitant and sequential therapies were not statistically different, .....".

- Page 16. 2nd paragraph beginning 'The heterogenicity....' is not clear and needs rewording.

**Response:** Thank you for your comment. We revised the words to make it clear.

Reviewer #2:

This manuscript reports on the outcome of non-bismuth quadruple therapy for Hp eradication. The results are based on the data review from six randomized controlled trials and over 1600 patients. The conclusion is that the non-bismuth concomitant quadruple therapy achieved a higher Hp eradication rate than the standard triple therapy. Moreover, the patients undergoing non-bismuth quadruple therapy showed a higher compliance rate. The study is well presented, clearly written, and certainly worthy of reading.

**Response:** Thank you for your comment.