Algiers, 22th April 2016

Dear Lian-Sheng Ma,

President and Company Editor-in-Chief**,**

**Baishideng Publishing Group Inc**

   Please, let me inform you that our work **(ESPS Manuscript NO: 26246)** is not a clinical trial insofar that we do not prescribe any medication during the study. This is, therefore, a clinical and descriptive study of 1256 consecutive patients. Clinical data were collected prospectively during the enrollment of patients.

Furthermore, additional tests were performed to confirm the diagnosis of achalasia and allow an adequate coverage of the disease. This attitude was consistent with the recommendations of the international learned societies which state that the diagnosis of achalasia is based on a range of clinical and paraclinical arguments (barium swallow, endoscopy and manometry). Therefore, the realization of the clinical work, was not answerable to a prerequisite.

Besides, I inform you that Algeria did not arrange a legislation in this domain until 2006 (Decree No. 387 of 31 July 2006) and that the informed consent is not required to perform various tests to make or confirm the diagnosis of achalasia. Indeed, to date, the patient's consent is not required for the achievement of an upper endoscopy, a barium swallow or an esophageal manometry.

However, before performing these procedures, we explain systematically to the patients the utility of these tests for a better management of their disease.

Part of this work has been accepted and registered as a research project by the ANDRS

(National Agency for Development of Scientific Research) under the code: 02/00/00/07/142 and the other part by the Department health, population and hospital reform under the project code: 76.11 ) . (See attachments).

A part of the results of these two projects was presented at the 9th day of ANDRS in 2009 as an oral communication (Title: Profile of achalasia in Algeria. Tebaibia A et al) and the other part was published in the United European Gastroenterology journal (abstract).

The statistical study was conducted at the National Institute of Public Health (INSP)

(see the attached document) .

The financing was subsidized by the Ministry of Health, Population and Hospital Reform, and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

The total financing was of 7,000,000 dinars (see attached document).

Concerning the conflict of Interest Statement: The authors report no conflict of interest related to the conception and writing of this article.

Best regards

Pr Amar Tebaibia