

Dear Dr. Jing Yu

First of all,thank you very much for allowing me to extend the deadline and for the reviewers comments concerning our manuscript entitled“**Efficacy of hydrotalcite and esomeprazole combination on healing quality of gastric ulcer: a clinical observation study**” ( ID:27379 ).Those comments are valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied the comments carefully and we tried our best to improve the manuscript. We have made correction and the amendments are highlighted in red in the revised manuscript. Point by point responses to the reviewers’ comments are listed below this letter.

We greatly appreciate both your help and that of the reviewers concerning improvement to this paper, and hope that the correction will meet with approval.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Ruiqi Yang.

Replies to Reviewers and Dr. Jing Yu

First of all, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the reviewers and Dr. Jing Yu for the constructive and positive comments.

**Replies to Reviewer 1 (Reviewer's code: 03474659) :**

*1.The method of quantitative evaluation of deposition area of collagen fibers is unclear.*

Response: Thank you very much for the suggestion. Considering the reviewer's suggestion, the method of quantitative evaluation of deposition area of collagen fibers is as follows. The area of collagen fibers deposition was evaluated by Masson's trisome staining, which stains fibrotic tissues as blue color. Five randomly-chosen fields ( $\times 200$  times) of each specimen were imaged. All images were analyzed using Plus6.0 Image-Pro software. Collagen deposition area was measured using integral area and average value was calculated. The method of quantitative evaluation of deposition area of collagen fibers have been added in the Results in the revised version to address this issue.

*2.The author needs to be carefully the spelling error and grammas.*

Response: Thank you for your kind advice. We have understood that the error of spelling and grammas. we tried our best to improve the manuscript, and provide a language editing certificate, with the revised manuscript. All the correction and amendments are highlighted in red in the revised manuscript. Thank you again for your advice.

**Replies to Reviewer 2 (Reviewer's code: 00034993) :**

*1. There were many grammatical errors. Authors should revise carefully.*

Response: Thank you for your kind advice. Considering the reviewer's suggestion. We

have studied the comments carefully and we tried our best to revise the manuscript. We have made correction and the amendments are highlighted in red in the revised manuscript. Thank you again for your advice.

*2. How about association with H. pylori infection and healing quality of gastric ulcer?*

Response: Thanks you very much for the reviewer's suggestions. Previous studies have shown that 90% of patients with gastric ulcer infect *H. pylori*. *H. pylori* infection is closely related to the healing quality of gastric ulcer. The eradication of *H. pylori* can promote the ulcer healing and improve the healing quality of gastric ulcer. In this study, we also discussed the relation between *H. pylori* eradication and the healing quality of gastric ulcer. However, *H. pylori* positive rates were similar between the combination therapy and monotherapy groups before and after treatment. The results showed that hydrocortisone combined with esomeprazole improved the maturity of regenerated mucosal tissue both structurally and functionally. Thanks you again for the advice.

Special thanks to you for your good comments and suggestions.

Other changes:

Figure 1 has been corrected for a clean figure. We are very sorry for the mistake that we had made.

We have tried our best to improve the manuscript and made some changes in the manuscript. There are still some changes that we did not list, but we marked them in red in revised manuscript.

Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.