

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

September 12, 2013



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 3753-review.doc).

Title: Hemorrhagic gastric and duodenal ulcers after the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 3753

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1)To editor:

We have found some minor errors and collected them in this manuscript.

At 1st, we changed sentences (P6, line16 and P11, line20) and part of the Table 1, 3, because in the group of hemorrhagic gastric ulcers developed in the acute stress phase, *H. pylori* positive patients were 5 people not 6.

2nd, we changed sentences (P6, line16 and P10, line16) and part of the Table 1, 3, because the ratio of male and female was "6:3" not "5:4".

P3, line7-15: We modified "Method in Abstract" less than 80 words.

P4, line9-14: We added "Core tip".

We added some references. We added P4, line24 "The East Japan Earthquake Disaster significantly increased the occurrences of cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, and cerebrovascular disease [1-9]".

We added P8, line18-19 "Kanno et al reported that post-disaster hemorrhagic ulcers were frequently observed in the stomach as multiple ulcers at the same time [24]".

P13, line15-P14, line20: We added "Comment".

(2)Response to Reviewer 0129936 comments:

Thank you for kindly reviewing our manuscript.

1. The 27 cases were all patients who with hemorrhagic gastric/duodenal ulcers in our hospital in the previous year. It was the same number as of 2011 by chance. Therefore, we did not select randomly the control cases.

P5, line18: We changed "27 patients" to "27 consecutive patients".

2. We added a figure of the number of emerged cases showed every two weeks. (Figure 2, Figure 3)

We compared the study finding against previous earlier study (reference 18, 21, 22) in the text.

3. P13, line3-6, 8-9: "Our study has some limitations. This is an observational analysis which performed in a limited closed lesion with a small sample size. Under the confused situation for a while right after the great disaster, detail examinations were difficult to perform. However, we expect that this study will provide some useful information for medical care of hemorrhagic gastro/duodenal injury at the time of a great disaster." These sentences were added in the text.

P4, line3 and P13, line12: We changed conclusion "Severe stress caused by earthquake disaster may have affected the characteristics of hemorrhagic gastric/duodenal ulcers."

(3)Response to Reviewer 00817056 comments:

Thank you for kindly reviewing our manuscript.

1. P11, line21-22: We added "All patients of hemorrhagic gastric/duodenal ulcers had no history of eradication therapy of *H. pylori*." in the text, because we confirmed that all patients had no history of eradication of *H. pylori* therapy.

The values of serum IgG antibody titer of *H. pylori* were added to the table 1 and table 2. However, 2 patients were not examined because of early transfer to other hospitals.

P6, line3-5: We added "If the antibody titer was more than 10 U/ml, the patient was considered *H. pylori* positive. The titers of two patients were not examined because they were immediately transferred to other hospitals."

2. The location of duodenal ulcers "AW/PW" were added to the table 3.

P12, line22-P13, line2: Discussion of this point was added in the text. "As to the location of hemorrhagic duodenal ulcers, all patients had ulcers in the posterior wall of the bulbus in the acute stress phase. The proportion of these patients tended to be higher than chronic stress phase and the previous year, though the difference did not reach statistical significance. Stress induced duodenal ulcers without *H. pylori* infection may tend to occur in the posterior wall of the bulbus."

(4)Response to Reviewer 01436291 comments:

Thank you for kindly reviewing our manuscript.

Although we cannot completely exclude a possibility that a part of the patients got acute *H. Pylori* infection, we think most part of them had not freshly infected by *H. Pylori*. Any incident of waterborne infection including bacterial and viral infections was not reported in this area during the period and the quality of most sources of drinking water was maintained in hygienic state.

We did not encounter patients with hemorrhagic acute gastric mucosal lesion, since they might be induced by primary infection of *H. Pylori*. In the state of confusion after disaster, we had a difficulty to further examine these cases in detail.

P12, line16-21: We added "We did not encounter patients with hemorrhagic acute gastric mucosal lesion that might have been induced by primary infection by *H. pylori*. There is a minor possibility that those patients got acutely infected by *H. pylori* and were not yet serologically positive. However, no incident of waterborne infection was reported in this area during the period, and the quality of most sources of drinking water was maintained in a hygienic state. We do not think that a majority of them got infected by *H. pylori* during the study period."

Response to Reviewer 2446765 comments:

Thank you for kindly reviewing our manuscript.

1. The total number of patients of hemorrhagic gastric/duodenal ulcers in occurred in 2010 (September-May) was almost same as that of in 2009.

2. We have no endoscopic date before and after the earthquake in the same patients.

3. Endoscopic examinations were mainly performed for limited to hemorrhagic gastric/duodenal ulcers, because we were able to perform only minimum requirement under confused situation for a while right after the great disaster. Therefore, pathophysiology and incidence of non-hemorrhagic and asymptomatic peptic ulcers are unknown.

P13, line6: We added "Endoscopic examinations were mainly performed for hemorrhagic gastric/duodenal ulcers. Therefore, the pathophysiology and incidence of non-hemorrhagic and asymptomatic peptic ulcers are unknown." in the text.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Our manuscript was corrected by American journal expert

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenichi Yamanaka". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Kenichi Yamanaka, MD,

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