



August 26, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 3908-review.doc).

Title: Study of risk factors for gastric cancer by populational databases analysis

Author: Fangio Ferrari, Marco Antonio Moura Reis

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 3908

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

1 Format has been updated and we sent our manuscript to English revision.

2 Revision has been made as suggested on the headings of the materials and methods and we changed our graphics to decomposable format.

3 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers:

(1) **"My concern about this study is the exclusion of *H. pylori* from the analysis which is a very important risk factor for gastric cancer." / "You abandoned *Helicobacter pylori*, it is basic." / "Exclusion of *H. pylori* from the analysis will bring bias to the results, because *H. pylori* is one of the most important risk factor for gastric cancer"** – We know its importance in the genesis of gastric cancer but since our methodology was to study the risk factors using the databases already available and we could not find one, and we also tried to create our own database for the prevalence of infection by *H. pylori* through data from published studies to which we had access, but it resulted in a very small number of evaluated countries (only 53 of the 183), and this data also was of low precision because it was estimated.

(2) **"The public database used in this study was maintained by the Project GLOBOCAN, and the data available of the year 2008. Many changes happened during the five years, it's really a limitation of this study."** – We agree with this statement, but as far as we know the last data available by the GLOBOCAN Project is from the year 2008.

(3) **"The author choose countries with the incidence of gastric cancer under the 25th percentile and above the 75th percentile to measure the association to the exposure to each risk and protective factors. it is better to point the definite countries and explain the possible reason."** – The choice of P25 and P75 as limits of the extreme incidences was due to this variable do not present a normal distribution, where this percentiles corresponds to the first and third quartiles, markers of measure of dispersion commonly used for non-normal distributions. The countries under study are presented in Table 1 of the paper originally submitted for analysis.

(4) **"What do you mean by the term: "gastric cancer", 90 % of gastric malignancies are adenocarcinomas, the rest is lymphoma and carcinoid tumours."** – We did not propose the use of the term "gastric cancer", but we only used, without modification, the term used by the GLOBOCAN Project, which is a global benchmark for the epidemiological study of various types of cancer in the world. They refer to gastric cancer

as all the malignant tumors of the stomach listed at the *International Classification of Disease* (ICD, 10th revision) coded as C16.

(5) **"Retrospective study could not be accurate in gaining anamnestic data."** - We believe that the objectives of the study and its limitations, as presented in the paper, already serves as response.

(6) **"It is needed to give a definition for each variable (tobacco, alcohol, obesity)"** - These definitions were already presented in the Materials and Methods section of the paper originally submitted for analysis.

(7) **"It is needed to introduce the database of the Project GLOBOCAN of International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), and provide the reference"** - We agree that it deserves more attention because of its importance.

4 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

Fangio FERRARI, MD
Mestrado Saúde e Meio Ambiente
Universidade da Região de Joinville - UNIVILLE
Joinville, Santa Catarina
89219-710, Brazil
Fax: +55-47-34619152
E-mail: fangioferrari@gmail.com