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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 45468

Title: Prevalence and risk factors for Barrett's esophagus in Taiwan

Reviewer's code: 00504708

Reviewer's country: United States

Science editor: Ruo-Yu Ma

Date sent for review: 2019-01-21

Date reviewed: 2019-01-24

Review time: 16 Hours, 2 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors did a thorough review of a fairly discrete topic and covered their goals well. There are relatively few studies on this topic. This data refutes the previously held concept that BE is rare in Asia. The 2015 CGH systematic review was a good background and gave similar results. Since the predominance of BE in Taiwan is short segment, I do



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not know why one cm interval Seattle protocol biopsies are not employed. The tea ingestion issue should be further elaborated on in the discussion. Overall, I enjoyed the manuscript.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
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- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 45468

Title: Prevalence and risk factors for Barrett's esophagus in Taiwan

Reviewer's code: 02563617

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Ruo-Yu Ma

Date sent for review: 2019-01-21

Date reviewed: 2019-01-25

Review time: 4 Hours, 4 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The study is focused on prevalence and risk factor for BE and it demonstrates an higher prevalence of BE in Taiwan than previously reported. The study is well conducted and improve general knowledge on BE prevalence and on risk factor. Some points need to be addressed in my opinion: Authors state: Periodic endoscopic surveillance for

dysplastic or cancerous lesions is suggested for patients diagnosed with BE, although disagreement exists regarding the long-term survival benefit of such surveillance [4]. This is an old reference of more than 10 years ago; I suggest to use a more recent reference. Authors state: The majority of these individuals were physically robust without medical illness and underwent their health check-up to rule out physical disorders, particularly malignancy. The remaining individuals were either employees who were undergoing a regular physical check-up arranged by their employers or those suffering from physical discomforts. I think that this sentence needs to be clarified with data showing at last the percentage of the three categories that has been recognized. In particular the percentage of participants 'suffering from physical discomforts' seems to be important. ESEM was found in 423 (12.5%) individuals, and 89 among them were confirmed to have IM and presence of goblets cells via biopsy examination. Table 3 compare different characteristics in group of ESEM with or without specialized IM. Unfortunately, among the endoscopic findings, it is not reported if any difference was found in ESEM length between these two groups. As reported by authors different papers has demonstrated that specialized IM is more easily histologically recognized dependently on several factors, and among them also length of Barrett's esophagus. I think that an explanation on the reasons for a value as high as 12.5 of ESEM with an histological confirmation in only 21% of them is necessary. Furthermore, while information are provided on the number of endoscopists participating in this work was provided, we have no information about pathologists. The overall agreement (K) in the histological diagnosis of Barrett's esophagus is 0.599 (Virchows Arch 2016 Feb;468(2):159-67. doi: 10.1007/s00428-015-1878-5. PMID: 26563401). This could also be an important factor to explain the difference between ESEM and histological BE.



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- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 45468

Title: Prevalence and risk factors for Barrett's esophagus in Taiwan

Reviewer's code: 03699916

Reviewer's country: Denmark

Science editor: Ruo-Yu Ma

Date sent for review: 2019-01-21

Date reviewed: 2019-01-26

Review time: 4 Hours, 5 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
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			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a well-designed retrospective study. Authors clearly demonstrated that prevalence of Barrett's esophagus (BE) among the general population in Taiwan is 2.6% and old age, male gender, ingestion of tea and hiatal hernia are significant risk factors for BE. Furthermore, they demonstrated that he independent risk factor for the presence of



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intestinal metaplasia in endoscopically suspected esophageal metaplasia lesions was old age alone. It is well known that BE is a pre-malignant condition associated with the development of esophageal adenocarcinoma. Therefore, it is important to know the risk factors predicting the presence of BE. The present study provided such data from Taiwan district and enriched the database in this field. It is relevant for the readership in WJG.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

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BPG Search:

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- ☐ No