

10th May, 2019

The Editor-In-Chief
World Journal of Gastroenterology

Dear Editor,

Manuscript Title: Gastro-duodenal disease in Africa

Responses to reviewer's comments - World Journal of Gastroenterology - 47451

We thank the reviewers for their careful comments, which have enabled us to greatly improve the clarity of the manuscript. Our responses to each comment are underlined below. The suggested changes are made in manuscript.

Reviewer reports:

Reviewer #1: This manuscript analyses a topic that has not been adequately covered before. The authors manage to present many different epidemiological aspects of Gastroduodenal disease in Africa, while trying to provide explanations for the vast differences observed between studies that deal with this topic. The scientific quality of the manuscript is adequate, but what stands out is that it does a very good job in covering a very interesting subject, one that is not consistently addressed.

Reviewer #2: The manuscript "GASTRO-DUODENAL DISEASE IN AFRICA" by Archampong et al. is a review paper on the topic of gastroduodenal diseases in Africa, with new clinical data presentation by authors. The manuscript is interesting and mostly well-written as the introduction of current clinical situations on GDD in Africa. However I would like to recommend the change or modification on following points; 1. Title (page1): As this manuscript is not a complete literature review, but it involved clinical study by authors, changing the title, for example, adding subtitle such as "literature review and clinical data from Accra" would fit the contents and would be readable to the readers.

On title page 1, line 4; subtitle, "literature review and clinical data from Accra, Ghana" has been added. A short running title has been added: Archampong *et al.* Gastro-duodenal disease in Africa.

2. Abstract (page3): "complement the analysis with new data obtained on pre-malignant gastric histopathological lesions in Accra, Ghana and Maputo, Mozambique". I think data from Maputo is not new data (ref 42).

Page 3, paragraph 2, line 8: The sentence has been changed to reflect prior data from Maputo, Mozambique.

3. Methods (page6?): This paper did not contain method part in the current form. Only sources of papers are indicated. If authors want to include clinical study part, please describe the details of the study in methods or sources of clinical study.

Page 7; paragraph 3: The study design and description of the clinical study in Accra, Ghana has been described under subheading “Methods”.

4. Patterns of peptic ulcer disease in Africa (page8):"Nevertheless, in an unselected community study in Lusaka, Zambia, PUD was comparable in prevalence to other western countries (9)". What is (9)? Please indicate the reference of this study.

Page 9; paragraph 1; line 10: Reference (9) was an error in formatting which has been rectified in the text as reference [27]. PUD in this unselected community study was compared western studies in table 1. Reference 27 has been inserted into manuscript table 1, page 27.

5. Gastric histopathology in dyspeptic patients (page9, Table2): I would like to recommend authors to include study from Japan, where endoscopic examination is highly accessible to people, and gastric cancer incidence is especially high, opposite to the cases in Africa. One of the largest histological study in Japan, reported 17.2% cases had intestinal metaplasia in antrum, and 10.8% had in body among 1395 dyspeptic patients (Sakitani et al. J Gastroenterol and Hepatol 2011 26 1570). This data is comparable to Finland study, but is considerably higher than that from Accra, Mozambique, and most African studies presented in Table 2. The distribution of metaplasia is quite different from that presented in Table 3, highlighting the distal predominant advanced histology in Accra and Mozambique studies. In addition, this Japanese histological study clearly showed IM, especially in corpus, is a risk factor of gastric cancer.

Page 11; line 21: the Journal article on the study from Japan “Gastric cancer risk according to the distribution of intestinal metaplasia and neutrophil infiltration” by Sakitani et al. J Gastroenterol and Hepatol 2011, has been discussed in relation to intestinal metaplasia differences with tertiary centre studies in Africa (including Accra, Ghana, Maputo, Mozambique) and the European study from Finland.

6. Gastric histopathology in Accra, Ghana (page9): "The modified Sydney system" is usually termed as The updated Sydney system. Did the authors newly modify the system?

Page 10; paragraph 3; line 1: The “modified Sydney system has been changed to the “updated Sydney system”. The authors did not modify the updated Sydney system but rather was an error.

7. Gastric histopathology in Accra, Ghana (page10): I cannot follow the data on "The majority showed mild gastric atrophy 6/9(66.7%) and/or intestinal metaplasia 10/16(62.5%), respectively" in Table 3. Where is gastric atrophy of "6" or "9" cases ? Where is intestinal metaplasia "10" and "16" cases. Please explain the source of these numbers and revise the sentence or table.

Page 32: Table 4, has been inserted in the manuscript which shows the grading of atrophy (T1-3) and Metaplasia (M1-3) in the study in Accra, Ghana, as per the updated Sydney system.

The number of patients with gastric atrophy were 9; (n=9)

The number of patients with intestinal metaplasia were 16; (n=16)

Six (6) out of the 9 patients with gastric atrophy had mild atrophy T1 while 10 out of the 16 patients with intestinal metaplasia had mild intestinal metaplasia M1, table 4.

20 patients had gastric atrophy and/or intestinal metaplasia, table 3.

Editor's reports:

All authors must provide their personal ORCID registration number. For example, Marcos Pasarín (0000-0002-4122-1235); Juan G Abraldes (0000-0002-4392-660X); Eleonora Liguori (0000-0002-0244-927X); Beverley Kok (0000-0002-1727-5030); Vincenzo La Mura (0000-0003-4685-7184).

Page 2 paragraph 4: All ORCID numbers of the authors are listed in the manuscript.

you need to provide the grant application form(s) or certificate of funding agency for every grant, or we will delete the part of "Supportive foundations".

Grant application forms for Dr. Timothy Archampong and MRC Funding letter for Dr. Sandra Beleza are submitted with the manuscript.

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The subtitles in the manuscript have been revised to reflect above descriptions

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The references in the manuscript have been revised to exclude any repeated ones and also to conform to the description above.

Please provide the decomposable figure of figures, whose parts are all movable and editable, organize them into a PowerPoint file, and submit as “Manuscript No. - Figures.ppt” on the system, we need to edit the words in the figures. All submitted figures, including the text contained within the figures, must be editable. Please provide the text in your figure(s) in text boxes.

The manuscript figures 1 - 3 have been organized into a powerpoint file 47451 - figures.ppt

Please don't include abbreviations in the title of the figure/table.

Please explain all the abbreviations in the figure/table legends: full name (abbreviation).

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The manuscript has been revised such that superscript numbers are used for the illustrations in the tables.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Timothy Archampong

(Corresponding author)