

Larissa 06/04/2021

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for sending us your and the reviewer's comments on our paper entitled "*THE ROLE OF AUTOPHAGY IN GASTRIC CARCINOGENESIS*" by A. Papaefthymiou et al. We have now revised our manuscript accordingly. I would be glad if you now approve our revised manuscript for publication in your reputable Journal. I thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Apostolis Papaefthymiou MD, PhD(c)

Resident Gastroenterologist

Title: THE ROLE OF AUTOPHAGY IN GASTRIC CARCINOGENESIS

Response to Reviewer's comments

We particularly thank the Reviewer for his/her enthusiasm and constructive comments.

REVIEWER

It is the reviewer's honor to read this manuscripts. Authors summarize the autophagic pathway regulated by the latest complex molecular signals. The writings and logics are excellent. My Concern is that the clinical application of GC potential preventive and therapeutic targets should be highlighted, because the two facts of interests: 1) H.pylori is one of the most frequent triggerings; 2) GC is the consequence of multi-stage pathological progress following "inflammation-cancer" chain.

The minor revisions are thus needed as follows:

(1) In addition to CagA- and VacA- induced mechanisms, autophagy by other virulent factors in Helicobacter pylori ought to be detailed if possible.

Considering *H. pylori*-related virulence factors, limited data exist concerning their role in autophagy, beyond those summarized by us. By reviewing the relative literature, we have now included some additional data.

(pages 15-16 of the revised manuscript)

(2) Apart from H. pylori infection and gastric cancer, the autophagy throughout the acknowleged "inflammation→precancerous lesions (atrophic gastritis, intestinal metaplasia, dysplasis)→gastric cancer" chain triggered by H.pylori should be fully described. For example, H. pylori associated atrophic gastritis has been identified as precancerous lesion which owns crucial therapeutic checkpoint clinically called "Irreversible point" (the abnormalty of gastric epithelial cells will be inevitably prone to canceration

even after H. pylori eradication), Literatures for the intrinsic association between atrophic and autophagy ought to be cited.

We agree with the Reviewer's rationale. Nevertheless, scarce data exist concerning the role of autophagy in the distinct stages of Correa cascade. We have now incorporated some relative information in the revised manuscript, according to the Reviewer's suggestion (*pages 16-17 of the revised manuscript*)

EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

Authors must revise the manuscript according to the Editorial Office's comments and suggestions, which are listed below:

Science editor: 1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a review of the role of autophagy in gastric carcinogenesis. The topic is within the scope of the WJGO. (1) Classification: Grade B; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: Authors summarize the autophagic pathway regulated by the latest complex molecular signals. The writings and logics are excellent. The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered; (3) Format: There are 2 figures; (4) References: A total of 104 references are cited, including 65 references published in the last 3 years; (5) Self-cited references: There is no self-cited reference; and (6) References recommendations: The authors have the right to refuse to cite improper references recommended by the peer reviewer(s), especially references published by the peer reviewer(s) him/herself (themselves). If the authors find the peer reviewer(s) request for the authors to cite improper references published by him/herself (themselves), please send the

peer reviewer's ID number to editorialoffice@wjgnet.com. The Editorial Office will close and remove the peer reviewer from the F6Publishing system immediately. 2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade A. 3 Academic norms and rules: No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search. 4 Supplementary comments: This is an invited manuscript. No financial support was obtained for the study. The topic has not previously been published in the WJGO.

We thank the Science Editor for his/her constructive comments.

Issues raised:

(1) The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor;

We assure that the figures are original authors' own work and no further documentation is necessary. A PowerPoint preparation has been performed and Editor's reprocessing is now available.

(2) PMID and DOI numbers are missing in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Please revise throughout;

Done according to the Editor's suggestion

(3) If an author of a submission is re-using a figure or figures published elsewhere, or that is copyrighted, the author must provide documentation that the previous publisher or copyright holder has given permission for the figure to be re-published; and correctly indicating the reference source and copyrights. For example, "Figure 1 Histopathological examination by hematoxylin-eosin staining (200 ×). A: Control group; B: Model group; C: Pioglitazone hydrochloride group; D: Chinese herbal medicine group. Citation: Yang JM, Sun Y, Wang M, Zhang XL, Zhang SJ, Gao YS, Chen L, Wu MY, Zhou L, Zhou YM, Wang Y, Zheng FJ, Li YH. Regulatory effect of a Chinese herbal medicine formula on non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. World J Gastroenterol 2019; 25(34): 5105-5119. Copyright ©The Author(s) 2019. Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc[6]". And please cite the reference source in the references list. If the author fails to properly cite the published or copyrighted picture(s) or table(s) as described above, he/she will be subject to withdrawal of the article from BPG publications and may even be held liable.

As declared at point (1), no figures have been published elsewhere, thus consisting a *de novo* authors' conception.

COMPANY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors.

We thank the Company Editor-in-chief for his/her comments