

Manuscript ID: 65709

Manuscript title: Gastrectomy impact on the gut microbiome in patients with gastric cancer: a comprehensive review

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Dear Lian-Sheng Ma,

Thank you for your email dated 2021-04-06 enclosing the reviewers' comments and a decision for revision on our paper. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to You and the reviewers for all the comments which we believe will improve our manuscript. We have carefully reviewed the remarks and have revised the manuscript accordingly. We are delighted to have an opportunity to resubmit the extensively revised manuscript to World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery.

Following this letter are the reviewer comments with our responses in italics. The revisions have been developed in consultation with all coauthors, and each author has approved the final form of this revision. We look forward to hearing from you in due time regarding our submission and are ready to respond to any further questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

Augustinas Bausys

## Response to Revision requests.

### Reviewer #1

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: 1) The author summarized four studies investigating gut microbiome after total or subtotal gastrectomy for GC in Table 1. I think you should also summarize the ongoing clinical trials on <https://clinicaltrials.gov/>. I would like to see these fleshed out a bit more in the article, as many might not be aware of the future direction of this area. 2) The topic of GC treatment, including immunotherapy, is not brought up. Since GC was related to the poor therapeutic efficacy of chemotherapy and immunotherapy. Moreover, the commensal microbiota could affect the efficacy of chemotherapy and immunotherapy. To explore the relationship between gastrectomy's impact on the gut microbiome and GC treatment in this article might be lightening.

*We would like to thank the reviewer for the thoughtful comments and efforts towards improving our manuscript.*

- 1) As suggested by the reviewer, we discussed the ongoing studies, which investigate gut microbiome changes through the gastric cancer treatment pathway. However, current studies are not designed to specifically investigate gastrectomy-induced dysbiosis, thus, such studies are still necessary.*
- 2) We agree with the reviewer, that relationship between gastrectomy-induced dysbiosis and chemotherapy/immunotherapy efficacy is very intriguing and interesting. Although to date, there is a lack of evidence to discuss it, thus, it has to be studied in future studies. Although, we slightly expanded the discussion in the "LIMITATIONS OF THE CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND PERSPECTIVES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH" section.*

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: It is a good extensive narrative review. Minor English check and spelling needed (some spaces are missing).

*We would like to thank the reviewer for reviewing our manuscript and positive feedback on it. We appreciate the comment, and thus we performed the language check.*

Reviewer #3:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: The article reviews the influences of gastrectomy for gastric cancer on the the gut microbiome. The influences are characterized by oralization, an increase of aero-tolerant bacteria and increased abundance of bile acid-transforming bacteria, which are driven by an altered environment in the GI tract, including loss of gastric barrier, an increase of oxygenation levels in distal guts, and the biliary diversion after gastrectomy. But it still need well-designed and appropriate size studies to investigate the relationship between them.

*We thank the reviewer for the careful reading of the manuscript and the positive evaluation of the review.*

Science editor:

1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a minireview of the gastrectomy impact on the gut microbiome in patients with gastric cancer. The topic is within the scope of the WJGS. (1) Classification: Grade B and two Grades C; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: The

article reviews the influences of gastrectomy for gastric cancer on the gut microbiome. It is a good extensive narrative review. The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered;

(3) Format: There is 1 table and 1 figure; (4) References: A total of 65 references are cited, including 24 references published in the last 3 years; (5) Self-cited references: There is 1 self-cited reference. The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%. Please keep the reasonable self-citations (i.e. those that are most closely related to the topic of the manuscript) and remove all other improper self-citations. If the authors fail to address the critical issue of self-citation, the editing process of this manuscript will be terminated; 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](mailto:editorialoffice@wjgnet.com). The Editorial Office will close and remove the peer reviewer from the F6Publishing system immediately.

2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade A and two Grades B.

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 WJGS.

5 Issues raised: (1) The "Author Contributions" section is missing. Please provide the author contributions; (2) 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; and (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. 6

Recommendation: Conditional acceptance.

*We thank the Editor for the careful review of our paper. As suggested, we answered the questions raised by the reviewers. Also, as requested, we added the authors contribution section.*