



May 25, 2021

Dear editor

Editor-in-Chief

Hope this finds you well

Re: Revised Manuscript Submission (Manuscript No: 65817)

We would like to thank you and all reviewers for your time and insightful and qualified comments after reviewing our manuscript titled **"Global research production pertaining to gastrointestinal involvement in COVID-19: a bibliometric and visualised study"**.

We wish to thank the editor and reviewers again for their time in commenting on the draft manuscript, which we believe has strengthened the paper. We carefully addressed all comments of the reviewers. A point-by--by-point reply to the comments is given below. We hope that we appropriately address all comments.

We look forward to you and reviewers' comments on the manuscript and hope that the manuscript is given favorable consideration for publication in World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery.

Yours sincerely

Sa'ed H Zyoud

Reviewer reports:

Reviewer #1 (05842368)

This bibliometric analysis provided a clear macroscopic overview of publications in the field of gastrointestinal tract linked to COVID-19. It was meaningful as a summary one year after the pandemic, also as a guide for future study. There are several small problems worth attention.

Response: I would like to thank you for the thorough reading of the manuscript and the professional comments and constructive recommendations, which help improve this manuscript's quality.

1. the sentence 'if you limit your search to gastrointestinal involvement in COVID-19 (January 2020 to December 31, 2020)' in the first paragraph of the RESULT part should be modified to be a formal scientific written language, passive tense here may be more appropriate.

Response: done

2. 'The top three countries by centrality were the United States, China, Italy, and the United Kingdom' in the second paragraph of the RESULT part. Actually you listed four countries.

Response: done

3. 'is the potential birthplace of current infection outbreaks' in the second paragraph of the DISCUSSION part. There haven't been definite results or conclusion from the virus tracing study, so public publications better not use these controversial descriptions. Besides, if authors could dig deeper of the data, for example, which disease is more studied in the GI tract, et al. the research would be much better. But I think this version has been very good for publication.

Response: done, please see Table 1

Reviewer #2 (05382654)

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has become a global pandemic. Studies showed that COVID-19 affected not only the respiratory system but also the digestive system. This manuscript mainly analyzed the global COVID-19 and GI-related literature in the Scopus database during 2020, including country and institution distribution, published journals, citations, and terms of published studies, which could present the research hotspots, development trends in COVID-19 and GI-related research, and provide a reference for research cooperation. However, below some suggestions may be helpful for shaping this manuscript.

Response: I would like to thank you for the thorough reading of the manuscript and the professional comments and constructive recommendations, which help improve this manuscript's quality.

1. General comments

- In page 1, this manuscript should be submitted to "World Journal of Gastroenterology", not "World Journal of Gastrointestinal".

Response: done

- In page 3, "...implications for the gastroenterologist COVID-19..." should be changed to "...implications of COVID-19 for the gastroenterologist...".

Response: done

- In addition, "...GI symptoms with COVID-19 and treatments..." should be changed to "...GI symptoms and treatments in COVID-19...".

Response: done

- In page 4, "...extreme acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV-2)..." should be changed to "...severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2)...".

Response: done

- In addition, "...Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)..." should be changed to "...acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)...".

Response: done

- In page 7, "...this studies' aim..." should be changed to "...the aim of this study...".

Response: done

- "The top three countries..." should be changed to "The top four countries...".

Response: done

- In page 8, "...the United Kingdome" should be changed to "...the United Kingdom".

Response: done

- In page 10, "Therefore far, ..." should be changed to "So far, ...".

- In page 11, please correct the syntax and grammatical errors carefully in the 2nd paragraph.
- **Response: done**
 - In page 12, Germany is one of the top 6 countries of research on COVID-19 and GI-related publications. However, Germany can't be seen in Figure 1.
- **Response: done**
2. In page 6, to avoid losing gastrointestinal publications concerning COVID-19, "SARS-CoV 2" OR "Novel Coronavirus" should be added, and "OR COVID19" should be deleted because of repeatability in the specific search terms related to COVID-19. Meanwhile, "OR stomach OR duodenal OR colon OR colorectal anorectum" or more GI associated words should be added in the specific search terms related to GI.
Response: Thank you for this suggestion. We reanalysis data according to your suggestion
3. It is suggested that the part of "RESULTS" and "DISCUSSION" could be described with several subheadings, such as "Country and institution distribution of COVID-19 and GI-related publications".
Response: Thank you for this suggestion. We made subheading for result as you suggested
4. In all figures and tables, all abbreviations should be given in full text according to the journal's requirements.
Response: done
5. In reference 5, available from:?, and the first author should be should be bolded. In reference 57, pages?. In reference 58, volume and page numbers are 71: 2207-2210? Please check other references including content and format carefully according to the journal's requirements.
Response: corrected
6. In table 4, the 7th articles, "Tian" should be changed to "Tian et al". Additionally, all "et al" should be italic. Throughout the text, please

correct the syntax, tense and grammatical errors carefully. Other suggestions have been listed in the uploaded revised version.

Response: corrected

Reviewer #3 (03889126)

This bibliometric analysis provides the concise summary of global GI publications related to COVID-19. It is well-written and offers a detailed guide and macroscopic overview of gastrointestinal publications' position in COVID-19 scholarly research evolution and performance during the early stages of the outbreak.

Response: I would like to thank you for the thorough reading of the manuscript and the professional comments and constructive recommendations, which help improve this manuscript's quality.

There are some advices:

1. I suggest the authors add some contents about the pathogenesis of gastrointestinal disease in COVID-19 in INTRODUCTION part.

Response: Thank you for this suggestion. We added it as you suggest (Reference # 6)

2. I suggest the authors list table(s) to summarize the symptoms and population of gastrointestinal diseases to show whether there are differences in different countries and regions.

Response: Thank you for this suggestion. We added it as you suggest (Table 1)

Editor comments

1. Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a scientometrics of the global research production pertaining to gastrointestinal involvement in COVID-19. The topic is within the scope of the WJGS.

Response: Dear editor, thank you very much for the comments and suggestions. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to improve and resubmit our manuscript. The comments and suggestions are valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our manuscript. According to the referees' comments and suggestions, we have made revisions, as described in the authors' response.

(1) Classification: Grade B, Grade C and Grade B;

(2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: The authors found that increased Notch-1 and loss of Numb, Itch, and Siah-1 expression were associated with carcinogenesis in colorectal cancer via immunohistochemistry and RT-PCR. Essential clinical, morphological, and immunohistochemical data were given. However, the manuscript was based on a descriptive analysis. The causal relationship was not further explored. The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered;

Response: According to the referees' comments and suggestions, we have made revisions, as described in the authors' response.

(3) Format: There are 4 tables and 2 figures.

(4) References: A total of 67 references are cited, including 62 references published in the last 3 years;

(5) Self-cited references: There are no self-cited references; and

(6) References recommend: The authors have the right to refuse to cite improper references recommended by peer reviewer(s), especially the references published by the peer reviewer(s) themselves. If the authors found the peer reviewer(s) request the authors to cite improper references published by themselves, please send the peer reviewer's ID number to the editorialoffice@wjgnet.com. The Editorial Office will close and remove the peer reviewer from the F6Publishing system immediately.

2. Language evaluation: Classification: Grade B, Grade C and Grade B.

Response: We had the paper extensive reviewed by native English speakers with experience in scientific English. We think this version of manuscript is much clearer than the old one. (Please seed the Proof-Reading-Service.com Editorial Certification).

3. Academic norms and rules: The authors provided the Biostatistics Review Certificate, and the PRISMA 2009 Checklist. 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 language classification is Grade C. Please visit the following website for the professional English language editing companies we recommend: <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240>;

Response: Response: Thank you for your comment; the revised manuscript has been edited thoroughly by a highly qualified native English speaker (**Proof-Reading-Service.com** UK) and made extensive editing and several corrections to the errors.

(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;

Response: We provided the original figures as PPT.

(3) 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; and

(4) Please obtain permission for the use of picture(s). 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.

Response: All our figures were original.

6. Recommendation: Conditional acceptance.

Response: thank you for this decision