

Thank you very much for your kind e-mail, which gave us the possibility to revise our manuscript. We emended the paper according to the reviewers' comments. We hope this revision will make our manuscript better to be accepted in your journal.

Each comment has been answered accordingly in the manuscript and each text that has been altered was highlighted red in the revised manuscript.

We hope that the revised version will fulfill the requirements for publication in the World Journal of Gastroenterology.

### **Reply to reviewer's comments**

This is very interesting study which is well designed. The followings are minor comments.

(1) There are no information of exact total number of cases in A and YE groups, including the text and table.

(2) Eighty-hundreds sixty-seven patients means 8067. Is this true. It seems to me that it is eight hundred sixty seven (867).

**Answer:** thanks for the comment. Regarding question 1, in the results section of the main text you can find this sentence "Hence the final index population was made of 96 subjects, as well as the control groups YE and A". In table 2 (last line) the total number of patients for each group is reported too. However, we wrote a sentence in the abstract too to clarify this aspect. Question 2, thanks for the correction, the exact number is eight hundred sixty seven (867).

### **Reply to editorial comments:**

Please rearrange all the authors' affiliations with Department, University or Institute, City, Postcode, Country, etc. (without any symbol or figure like \* or 1, postcode must be there).

**Answer:** This was done accordingly. You need to provide the grant application form(s) or certificate of funding agency for every grant, or we will delete the part of "**Supported by...**".

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**Answer:** We have now registered the Audio Core tip and this has been uploaded with the revised manuscript. The following is a list of all required documents that authors have to submit. Please confirm that all these documents are properly prepared before submitting the revision.