

## **Response to the editors and reviewers**

RE: We are very grateful for the constructive comments and invaluable suggestions offered by all of the editors and the reviewers. During revision period, we reconsidered the strengths and weaknesses of the manuscript and tried our best to revise the manuscript according to each of the peer-reviewers' comments and suggestions. We also polished the language further. Now we have made all changes point-by-point in the revised version. We hope all questions have been properly answered.

### **Response to the company editor-in-chief:**

**Comment 1.** Uniform presentation should be used for figures showing the same or similar contents; for example, "Figure 1 Pathological changes of atrophic gastritis after treatment. A: ...; B: ...; C: ...; D: ...; E: ...; F: ...; G: ...".

**Response:** Thanks for the suggestion, we have embedded the previous three figures into one figure in this revised version ("76426-Image File" in the uploaded files).

**Comment 2.** Please provide decomposable Figures (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single PowerPoint file.

**Response:** Thanks for this editor's kind remind. We have changed the previous figures in the manuscript as vector graphics with EMF format in this revised version and organized them into a single PowerPoint file ("76426-Image File" in the uploaded files).

**Comment 3.** Please authors are required to provide standard three-line tables, that is, only the top line, bottom line, and column line are displayed, while other table lines are hidden. The contents of each cell in the table should

conform to the editing specifications, and the lines of each row or column of the table should be aligned. Do not use carriage returns or spaces to replace lines or vertical lines and do not segment cell content.

**Response:** Thanks for the suggestion. We have carefully formatted the revised manuscript in strict accordance with the requirements posed in the comment and Baishideng Publishing Group (BPG) guidelines and requirements for manuscript revision-retrospective cohort study and format for manuscript revision-retrospective cohort study. The tables in this revised version is standard three-line tables. The lines of each row or column of the table have been aligned and carriage returns or spaces to replace lines or vertical lines have been deleted. Segmented cells have been rectified.

**Comment 4.** Please check and confirm whether the figures are original (i.e. generated de novo by the author(s) for this paper). If the picture is 'original', the author needs to add the following copyright information to the bottom right-hand side of the picture in PowerPoint (PPT): Copyright ©The Author(s) 2022.

**Response:** The figures in the current study are all original and we have added the copyright information to the bottom right-hand side of the picture in PowerPoint (PPT).