

December 29, 2023

Dear Editorial Office

Baishideng Publishing Group Inc

Thank you for the preview by the Editorial Office and peer review and for considering that the academic quality, language quality, and ethics of our manuscript (Manuscript NO.: 90522, Clinical Trials Study) basically meet the publishing requirements of the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*, and for the preliminary decision that it is acceptable for publication after our appropriate revision.

1- Point-by-point response to Reviewers

Reviewer #1

Response: We thank the generous commentaries by the reviewer about the quality of our draft.

Specific point

Reviewer's comment: *"However, I believe the major limitation of this work lies in the study duration, only 4 months. Some studies indicate that the reduction of antibodies in celiac disease occurs quite slowly when undergoing a gluten-free diet (doi: 10.1016/j.dld.2010.05.009)".*

Response: The authors thank the commentary of the reviewer and the reference. Such reference is coincident with a prior publication of our group (doi: 10.1016/j.dld.2009.07.011) which showed coincidences with the observation proposed by the reviewer. Thus, we added an appropriate text with a brief commentary (second to last paragraph of the Discussion Section) and added the proposed reference (#33).

2- Language polishing requirements for revised manuscripts.

Response: The revision process results in changes to the content of the revised manuscript. Therefore, Dr. Elena Verdú, M.D. coauthor of the submission, further polished the language to ensure the quality of the submission. We consider that sending the draft to a professional English-language editor is unnecessary.

3- Abbreviations

Response: We follow all rules for using abbreviations in the overall manuscript. All changes are highlighted in yellow throughout the overall draft.

4- Editorial Office's comments

The manuscript was revised according to the Editorial Office's comments and suggestions. Observations by the Academic Editor are responded below:

(1) Science editor:

1 Conflict of interest statement: Academic Editor has no conflict of interest.

Response: Nothing to comment on.

2 Academic misconduct: No academic misconduct was found.

Response: Nothing to comment on.

3 Scientific quality: The author submitted a clinical trial study on the effect of AN-PEP protease on long-term gluten free diet in patients with celiac disease. The manuscript is overall qualified.

(1) Advantages and disadvantages: The reviewers have given positive peer-review reports for the manuscript. Classification: Grade B; Language Quality: Grade A. This study investigates the role of *Aspergillus niger* endopeptidase as an adjuvant in the treatment of celiac disease. The text is written clearly, with no difficulties for readers from non-English-speaking countries. The methodology was executed and described very well. However, the primary limitation of this work lies precisely in what would make the study meaningful, which is the follow-up time with the patients. The reviewers believe that the team can be given an opportunity to address and correct this issue, or provide an explanation.

Response: The authors thank the commentary of the reviewer and the reference. Such reference is coincident with a prior publication of our group (doi: 10.1016/j.dld.2009.07.011) which showed coincidences with the observation proposed by the reviewer. Thus, we added an appropriate text with a brief commentary (second to last paragraph of the Discussion Section) and the proposed reference (#33).

(2) Main manuscript content: The author clearly stated the purpose of the study and the research structure is complete. However, the manuscript is still required a further revision according to the detailed comments listed below.

Response: The manuscript was revised accordingly to comments.

(3) Table(s) and figure(s): There are 2 Figures and 3 Tables should be improved. Detailed suggestions for each are listed in the specific comments section.

Response: Tables were modified according to comments.

(4) References: A total of 33 references are cited, including 9 published in the last 3 years. The reviewer didn't request the authors to cite improper references published by him/herself.

Response: Nothing to comment on.

4 Language evaluation: The English-language grammatical presentation needs to be improved to a certain extent. There are many errors in grammar and format, throughout the entire manuscript. Before final acceptance, the authors must provide the English Language Certificate issued by a professional English language editing company. Please visit the following website for the professional English language editing companies we recommend: <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240>.

Response: Language was again evaluated by one of the authors (E. Verdú).

5 Medical ethics: The author has provided the Biostatistics statement, Clinical trial registration statement, Informed consent statement, Institutional review board statement, CONSORT 2010 statement.

Response: Nothing to comment on.

6 Specific comments: (1) Please provide the Figures cited in the original manuscript in the form of PPT. All text can be edited, including A,B, arrows, etc. With respect to the reference to the Figure, please verify if it is an original image created for the manuscript, if not, please provide the source of the picture and the proof that the Figure has been authorized by the previous publisher or copyright owner to allow it to be redistributed. All legends are incorrectly formatted and require a general title and explanation for each figure. Such as Figure 1 title. A: ; B: ; C: .

Response: Figures were also provided in the PPT format.

(2) 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 indicate 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: Figures are original for this manuscript and they do not require any special permission.

(3) Please don't include any *, #, †, §, ‡, ¥, @....in your manuscript; Please use superscript numbers for illustration; and for statistical significance, please use superscript letters. Statistical significance is expressed as aP < 0.05, bP < 0.01 (P > 0.05 usually does not need to be denoted). If there are other series of P values, cP < 0.05 and dP < 0.01 are used, and a third series of P values is expressed as eP < 0.05 and fP < 0.01.

Response: References to statistical performance and p values were adapted to the requirements for the Journal. All changes are highlighted in yellow.

(4) The "Article Highlights" section is missing. Please add the "Article Highlights" section at the end of the main text (and directly before the References).

Response: The "Article Highlights" section has been added to the end of the body of the manuscript and before the Reference section. It is highlighted in yellow.

(5) Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. If there is no PMID or DOI, please provide the website address.

Response: All references were modified according to the journal's rules. All authors were included as PMID and DOI for the 33 references.

(6) Please add the Core tip section. The number of words should be controlled between 50-100 words.

Response: The Core tip section was included at the end of the Abstract section and is highlighted in yellow (95 words).

7 STEPS FOR SUBMITTING THE REVISED MANUSCRIPT

(2) Format for Manuscript Revision: Please update the format of your manuscript according to the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision and the Format for Manuscript Revision. Please visit <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/291> for the article type-specific guidelines and formatting examples.

Response: The manuscript was revised in accordance to the guidelines.

(3) Requirements for Article Highlights: If your manuscript is an Original Study (Basic Study or Clinical Study), Meta-Analysis, or Systemic Review, the “Article Highlights” section is required. Detailed writing requirements for the “Article Highlights” can be found in the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision.

Response: the Article Highlights has been included in the manuscript.

Step 4: References

Please revise the references according to the [Format for References Guidelines](#), and be sure to edit the reference using the reference auto-analyser.

Response: Footnotes and Figure Legends were appropriately modified.

Step 5:

(1) Requirements for Figures: Please provide decomposable Figures (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single PowerPoint file, and submit as “90522-Figures.pptx” on the system. The figures should be uploaded to the file destination of “Image File”.

Response: Figures were uploaded as PPT. Both were uploaded as Figure 1 and Figure 2. Both are original for this manuscript.

(2) Requirements for Tables: Please provide decomposable Tables (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single Word file, and submit as “90522-Tables.docx” on the system. The tables should be uploaded the file destination of “Table File”.

Response: The three Tables were uploaded in a single Word file as requested.

Step 6: Automatically Generate Full-Text Files

Authors cannot replace and upload the “Manuscript File” separately. Since we only accept a manuscript file that is automatically generated, please download the “Full Text File” or click “Preview” to ensure all the contents of the manuscript automatically generated by the system are correct and meet the requirements of the journal. If you find that there is content that needs to be modified in the Full-Text File, please return to the corresponding step(s), modify and update the content, and save. At this point, you then have to click the "Save & Continue" button in Step 5 and the F6Publishing system will automatically regenerate the Full-Text File, and it will be automatically stored.

8 COPYRIGHT LICENSE AGREEMENT

Response: Copyright License are complete. All authors should accept and sign the Copyright License Agreement (CLA), following the link sent in individual emails to each author. After all authors have accepted and signed their respective CLA, the Corresponding Author is responsible for downloading the signed CLA by clicking on the “Download” button in the CLA page, re-storing it as “PDF”, and then uploading it to the file destination of “Copyright License Agreement”. If any of the authors do not accept to sign the CLA, the manuscript will not be accepted for publication.

Response: The Copyright agreement was completed with the help of the Editorial office due to access problems and is uploaded to f6 publishing

9 CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORM

Response: A conflict-of-interest disclosure was uploaded.

Best regards,

Julio C. Bai, M.D.

Correspondent autor.