

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



April 7, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 9158-edited.doc).

**Title:** Heartburn and regurgitation have different impacts on life quality of patients with gastroesophageal reflux disease

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**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 9158

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Reviewer 1:

- (1) In figure 4, NERD regurgitation subgroup owned the lower MH score than EE regurgitation subgroup did, but the different was insignificant ( $P=0.506$ ). Therefore, we have summarized this result in the fifth paragraph of our "Discussion" section: *"In our study, patients with EE and those with NERD had similar general quality of life scores, both in the heartburn subgroup and the regurgitation subgroup"*.
- (2) According to reviewer's command and previous report, truly, gender factor might have some influence to the presentations of GERD patients. Female predominant (71.4%) was noted in the NERD regurgitation subgroup, but after analysis, the difference was not significant ( $P=0.137$ ) comparing with EE regurgitation subgroup. Besides, the case number would be too small to be analyze if we further divided these patients according to different gender. We have added it into our limitation (the sixth paragraph of Discussion section): *"gender predominant was found in some subgroups, and that might influence the final results"*

Reviewer 2:

- (1) Since we did not use pH or impedance-pH test to all of our enrolled patients, we have put this point into our limitation (the sixth paragraph of Discussion section): *"not all of our cases with NERD have accepted pH-metry monitoring, and it might lead to a misclassification of the individuals with functional heartburn as NERD"*
- (2) All enrolled cases in our study were belonged to adult patients, so we add "adult" in the row 1, first paragraph of Methods section.
- (3) All enrolled cases in our study were collected prospectively, so we add "prospectively" in the row 2, first paragraph of Methods section.
- (4) The endoscopy to our cases was performed by different endoscopist, that might cause inter-observer conflict and misclassification. This point had been described in our ordinary limitation (the sixth paragraph of Discussion section): *"the endoscopic findings were recorded by individual endoscopists, and inter-observer conflict and misclassification might have occurred"*

- (5) We have made more clarified and simple description of Conclusion section (abstract and main text) in the revised manuscript.

Reviewer 3:

- (1) All enrolled cases in our study were collected prospectively, and we supply "*prospectively*" in the row 2, first paragraph of Methods section.
- (2) Since we did not use pH or impedance-pH test to all of our enrolled patients, we have put this point into our limitation (the sixth paragraph of Discussion section): "*not all of our cases with NERD have accepted pH-metry monitoring, and it might lead to a misclassification of the individuals with functional heartburn as NERD*"
- (3) The underline disease of enrolled cases and hospital-based study design might influence the final results of our study, and these had been put in the limitation of our ordinary manuscript. (the sixth paragraph of Discussion section): "*Firstly, co-morbid diseases that tend to influence the severity of GERD, such as chronic heart failure or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, were not considered, and this might have led to inaccurate outcomes. ....Lastly, our study was hospital-based designed. Further research using representative samples of the general population are needed to confirm these results.*"

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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