Manuscript NO.: 87843

Title: Clinical usefulness of linked color imaging in identifying Helicobacter pylori infection: a systematic review and meta-analysis

On behalf of my co-authors, we thank you very much for giving us an opportunity to revise our manuscript, we appreciate editor and reviewers very much for their positive and constructive comments and suggestions on our manuscript entitled "*Clinical usefulness of linked color imaging in identifying Helicobacter pylori infection: a systematic review and meta-analysis*". Those comments are all valuable and helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. Revised portion are marked with yellow color in the revised manuscript.

Reviewer #1 (Number ID: 02510721):

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors:

Clinical usefulness of linked color imaging in identifying Helicobacter pylori infection The Abstract briefly shows the approach, conduct and results of the study. The Introduction develops knowledge on the pathogenetic role played by H pylori in relation to the development of gastric cancer. The important function of diagnostic methods for H pylori infection followed by effective eradication therapy is therefore emphasised. The methods of Literature search strategy, Study inclusion and exclusion, Data extraction and quality assessment, Risk of bias assessment are chosen and applied correctly. The statistical analysis is also correct. The results correspond to the study setting and are credible. The discussion illustrates well the various aspects of the general theme. However, it seems useful to me to introduce the explanation, even a summary one, of the action of H pylori in the development of gastric cancer. Furthermore, it should be clarified whether the LCI and WLI methods demonstrate the presence of H pylori infection or histopathological changes of the infection on the mucosa or both, as written in the study. Explanations are needed for this aspect. The References are appropriate and up to date. The Figures are clear and well integrated into the manuscript.

Reply: Thank you very much for your review of our manuscript, which has greatly encouraged us in our research endeavors. With reference to your suggestion, we supplemented the role of *H. pylori* infection in the development of gastric cancer, and the LCI and WLI showing histopathologic changes caused by *H. pylori* infection. Please see lines 76-78, 102-107 for more information. Thanks again for your comments, which are important for the communication of our manuscripts.

Reviewer #2 (Number ID: 02941672):

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Novelty of This Manuscript: Grade B (Good)

Creativity or Innovation of This Manuscript: Grade B (Good)

Scientific Significance of the Conclusion in This Manuscript: Grade A (Excellent)

Specific Comments to Authors:

This review demonstrated the usefulness of LCI for the diagnosis of Helicobacter pylori infection. The authors finally analysed seven articles and found that LCI was significantly superior to WLI for the diagnosis of H. pylori infection. An article on the usefulness of LCI for the detection of gastric cancer has recently been published and should be added in introduction. J Gastroenterol (2023)58:1-13. No other amendments are considered necessary.

Reply: Thank you very much for recognizing our research, it encourages us to explore further. With reference to your suggestion, we have carefully read "Current status and future perspective of linked color imaging for gastric cancer screening: a literature review ", and think it is an excellent review that we have previously missed. We have described and cited it appropriately. For more information, please see lines 93-95, 355-359. Thanks again for your comments, which are crucial to the communication and refinement of our manuscript.

Reviewer #3 (Number ID: 00039368):

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Novelty of This Manuscript: Grade B (Good)

Creativity or Innovation of This Manuscript: Grade B (Good)

Scientific Significance of the Conclusion in This Manuscript: Grade B (Good)

Specific Comments to Authors:

This is a well-written meta-analysis paper concerning the assessment of the efficacy of linked color imaging (LCI) for H. pylori active infection versus conventional white light endoscopy on the base of analysis of articles published before April 15 2022. The authors give the extensive characteristics of selected studies and presented detailed description of inclusion and exclusion criteria applied to select literature and used the appropriate statistical methods. The present meta-analysis showed that LCI significantly improve accuracy of diagnosis on H. pylori infection, as well as H. pylori associated changes of gastric mucosa including atrophy and gastrointestinal metaplasia. The authors have reviewed and analyzed sufficient amount of literature. The review is supplied with four main and two supplementary figures.

Reply: Thank you very much for recognizing our research, it encourages us to explore further. Moreover, we checked the full text in depth to ensure clarity and accuracy of language and research content. For more information, please see yellow markers in the revised manuscript. Thanks again for your comments, which are crucial to the communication and refinement of our manuscript.