

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

July 22, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 10954.doc).

Title: Gastroesophageal reflux in asymptomatic obese cases: An esophageal impedance-pH study, A prospective observational study

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 10954

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers. Additions are **bold and underlined** in the manuscript.

1- Format has been updated

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

(1) “*Define asymptomatic. GERD symptoms are common even in "normal" individuals. One episode of heartburn in the last year excluded individuals? “*

All cases did not have any reflux symptoms during the last 6 months. If they have any reflux symptoms, they excluded from the study.

“Individuals who had any reflux symptoms in the last six months excluded.

(2) “*presentation of data is confusing. Forget about alcohol, age, etc, focus on your primary data, i.e. bmi and pH. Show clearly how many patients had abnormal parameters.*”

Data about abnormal/normal impedance results added Table 1 and 2.

Table 1 : Demographic features of cases

Age, years (mean/range)	49±12 (28-70)
Gender , n (Female/Male)	23/23
BMI, kg/m ² (mean age, range)	
<30	27.7±1.7 (25-29)
>30	33.5±3.3 (30.5-45.5)
Comorbidity, %	37

Smoking , %	23.9
Endoscopic esophagitis , %	46
<u>Impedance results, n/%</u>	
<u>Normal</u>	<u>14/30.4</u>
<u>Pathologic acid reflux</u>	<u>16/34.8</u>
<u>Weakly acid reflux</u>	<u>15/32.6</u>
<u>Weakly alkaline reflux</u>	<u>1/ 2.2</u>

Table 2: Impedance results of overweight and obese cases

	BMI >30	BMI <30	P*
n	23	23	
The number of total gas reflux	25.8±34.7 (0-157)	18.5±13.3 (0-52)	0.87
The number of upright gas reflux	20±20 (0-88)	16.9±13(0-52)	0.82
The number of acid reflux episodes	26±54 (0-268)	26±24(1-77)	0.87
The number of weakly acid reflux episodes	28±31(3-143)	22±20(4-105)	0.82
Time that pH <4 (%)	3.6±7.4(0-35)	3.7±5.5(0-22)	0.99
Longest episodes of acid reflux	6±7.5 (0.14-25)	11.7±21(0-90)	0.88
DeMester score	15.7±27.9 (0.2-124)	15.3±21.09 (0.2-91)	0.97
<u>Pathologic acid reflux, n/%</u>	<u>7/30.4</u>	<u>9/39.1</u>	<u>0.7</u>
<u>Weakly acid reflux, n/%</u>	<u>9/39.1</u>	<u>6/26.1</u>	<u>0.7</u>
<u>Weakly alkaline reflux, n/%</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>1/ 4.3</u>	
<u>Normal impedance findings</u>	<u>7/30.4</u>	<u>7/30.4</u>	<u>0.7</u>

* Mann-Whitney U test

- (3) “analysis of manometric parameters may help understand the pathophysiology of gerd in obese people. Are les pressure lower in obese refluxers? “

We could not perform manometry in all cases (15 patients in <30 kg/m² and 13 patients in > 30 kg/m²). Mean LES pressure 15.4±3.2 mmHg (range, 10-21) and 19.8±6.1 (range 9-34 mmHg) in <30 kg/m² and > 30 kg/m² patients, respectively. Therefore, it is difficult to say something about pathophysiology.

- (4) “what is the meaning of your findings? A prevalence of 36% reflux is within the range of populational studies in normal Individuals. Does your results really indicate that gerd is more prevalent in obesese? If so, what is the clinical significance? Some bariatric procedures agravate gerd. Should asymptomatic patients be tested for gerd? “

You are right, many studies have been published about gastroesophageal reflux after bariatric surgery, especially Sleeve gastrectomy. We added this in the discussion.

“The clinical impact of these findings is especially important for the bariatric surgery in obese

population. Gastroesophageal reflux increases after the Sleeve gastrectomy^[15, 16]. Therefore, patients should evaluate carefully before operation even in the absence of symptoms.”

(5) “plus or minus symbol was corrupted”

Symbols were checked and corrected.

(6) Language was edited by native English speaker.

3- Signed copyright was attached

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

Sincerely yours,



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