January 30, 2013

Dear Editor,

**Title:** Extremely high prevalence of *Helicobacter pylori* infection in Bhutan

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The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestion of reviewers

1. Format has been updated.
2. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers as follow and change in red color in the manuscript.

#1. *H. pylori* infection is decreased with increased age in this paper. Is this phenomenon observed in all three areas in this study?

This phenomenon was significant in Thimphu area. Because the number of subjects more than 50 years old in Punakha and Wangdue was too small for statistics, we did not found this trend in these two areas. We added the sentence as follow “This phenomenon was significant in Thimphu area. Because the number of subjects more than 50 years old in Punakha and Wangdue was too small for statistics, this trend was not found in these two areas.” in the revised manuscript.

#2. About the study population, are these volunteers asymptomatic for GI diseases? How are these volunteers selected?

All the volunteers were local people who came to the endoscopy places in each area after receiving the information from the local public health officers. They all wrote the inform consent and accepted to perform upper GI endoscopy. All of them had dyspeptic symptoms. Therefore, we changed the sentence as follow “We recruited a total of 372 volunteers with dyspeptic symptoms (214 female and 158 male; mean age of 39.6 ± 14.9 years) during four days (6 to 9) in December, 2010.” in the revised manuscript.

#3. In the discussion section, the authors mentioned all the gastric ulcers found are in scar phase. Why all ulcers found in this study in scar phase? Are these patients' treated for *H. pylori*?

Unfortunately, we do not have any information why all ulcer case was not active phase. All subjects have never received eradication therapy for H. pylori infection. We modified the sentence as follow “However, although the reason is not clear, all peptic ulcer cases in our study was not active bleeding phase which means we do not need to mind them.” in the revised manuscript.

1. References and typesetting were corrected. We already sent our manuscript to American Journal Experts ([www.journalexperts.com](http://www.journalexperts.com)) for editing before submitting this final version.

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

Sincerely yours,

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