

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS



October 30, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 13220.doc).

**Title:** Relationship between *Helicobacter pylori* infection and inflammatory bowel disease in an Asian population: A meta-analysis

**Author:** Xiao-Wei Wu, Hong-Zan Ji, Miao-Fang Yang, Lin Wu, Fang-Yu Wang

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 13220

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

(1) The *H.pylori* detection methods were not simplex in all of the included studies, causing infeasible to make sub-groups analysis. *H.pylori* infection rates according to antibiotics use history were presented in two studies, but the data were available only in IBD groups and sub-groups analysis was also infeasible. The socio-economic status of the patients in included studies was unavailable.

(2) The search strategy has been corrected to “(*Helicobacter pylori* or *H. pylori*) and (Inflammatory bowel disease or Crohn’s disease or Ulcerative colitis)”. We have updated the manuscript in “number of controls, characteristics of included studies, and mechanism of HP against IBD”. The language has been modified by professional English language editing company.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fang-Yu Wang', on a light-colored background.

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Dear Editor:

Thanks for your comments. It is very important and useful for improving our work.

Comments: The authors did not answer satisfactorily (in my opinion) reviewer question regarding antibiotic treatment and therefore their conclusion is not well substantiated. Moreover in 2014 there was a paper published in WJG discussing this topic: Papamichael K, Konstantopoulos P, Mantzaris GJ. c and inflammatory bowel disease: is there a link? World J Gastroenterol. 2014 Jun 7;20(21):6374-85. doi: 10.3748/wjg.v20.i21.6374 -ref#37 in the manuscript.

Answers: We support the point of view that antibiotic use may impact the rate of H. pylori infection in IBD patients. Some studies had discussed the impaction of antibiotic use and resulted in opposite conclusion. Pronai et al [1] found that the history of any antibiotic had no influence on H. pylori status of patients with IBD. Pearce et al [2] indicated that the association of H. pylori infection and IBD was irrelevant with antibiotic therapy. In our meta-analysis, only two of the nine included studies reported the history of antibiotic use and found that IBD patients treated with antibiotics (quinolone and metronidazole) had a lower H. pylori infection rate than untreated patients [3,4]. Furthermore, the two included studies both reported that H. pylori infection rate of IBD patients without antibiotics treatment still significantly lower than health controls, but only one of them provided original data for further subgroup analysis. All of these studies had not described the time, dose and duration

of antibiotic use, which may cause different result of H. pylori infection status. So we think that antibiotic use can only partly explain for the lower H. pylori infection rate in IBD patients, and it is necessary to perform more well designed studies to ascertain the exact impact of antibiotic treatment for H. pylori infection in IBD patients.

(It was revised in page 10 of the manuscript)

## REFERENCES

- 1 Pronai L, Schandl L, Orosz, Z, et al. Lower prevalence of Helicobacter pylori infection in patients with inflammatory bowel disease but not with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease-antibiotic use in the history does not play a significant role. Helicobacter. 2004;9:278-283.
- 2 Pearce CB, Duncan HD, Timmis L, et al. Assessment of the prevalence of infection with Helicobacter pylori in patients with inflammatory bowel disease. European journal of gastroenterology & hepatology. 2000;12(4):439-43.
- 3 Song MJ, Park DI, Hwang SJ, Kim ER, Kim YH, Jang BI, Lee SH, Ji JS, Shin SJ. [The prevalence of Helicobacter pylori infection in Korean patients with inflammatory bowel disease, a multicenter study]. Korean J Gastroenterol 2009; 53: 341-347.
- 4 Pang Z, Li MF, Huangfu Z, Zhou CL, Shen BW. Low prevalence of Helicobacter pylori infection in Chinese Han patients with inflammatory bowel disease. Shijie Huaren Xiaohua Zazhi 2009; 17: 3661-3665.