

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS

October 19, 2014



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 13961-Edited.doc).

**Title:** Prospective serial study on primary antibiotic resistance of *Helicobacter pylori* strains isolated from the patients in Beijing

**Author:** Yuexi Zhang, Liya Zhou, Zhiqiang Song, Jianzhong Zhang, Lihua He, Yu Ding

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 13961

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) Antibiotic resistance may vary within patient groups with geographic region, patient age and sex, type of disease, and birthplace. Resistant *H. pylori* strains are different in different regions in China. Therefore, in my opinion, it is important to determine the prevalence of antibiotic resistance in the local *H. pylori* strains. Obviously, this study is not a true representative of Chinese population, and it is inappropriate that ‘Chinese patients’ was used in Title.

Yes, we agree this comment. So we change “Chinese patients” to “the patients in Beijing”.

(2) The authors stated in Results that ‘...The resistance rates of clarithromycin and levofloxacin in 2013-2014 were significantly higher than those in 2009-2010’, and ‘...Markedly, more multiple resistant *H. pylori* isolates were found in 2013-2014’. There are many factors influencing antibiotic resistance when comparing different population patients. And the paper failed to make comparisons between the same population patients in different periods.

Yes, we agree this comment to some extent. However, in clinical setting, it is impossible to make comparisons between the same population patients in different periods, because most of the patients will receive eradication therapy once they are diagnosed as *H. pylori* infection according to the consensus and guideline of *H. pylori*. In general, investigators compare the resistance rates of antibiotics determined from the different population at different period (in the same region or unit) to reflect the trend of change as in this study. So, at this point, no revision is needed.

(3) Should patients on administered non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and alcohol be excluded from the study as well?

Up to now, no evidence available shows the antibiotic resistance was significantly influenced by non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and alcohol. In most of the study related to antibiotic resistance of *H. pylori*, exclusion criteria does not included the patients administered non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and alcohol. So, at this point, no revision is needed.

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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