

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

December 26, 2014



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 15113-review.doc).

Title: Individual having a parent with early-onset gastric cancer may need screening at younger age

Author: Hee-Won Kwak, Il Ju Choi, Chan Gyoo Kim, Jong Yeul Lee, Soo-Jeong Cho, Bang Wool Eom, Hong Man Yoon, Jungnam Joo, Keun Won Ryu, Young-Woo Kim

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 15113

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1. Format has been updated and abstract was changed according to the recommended word counts.
2. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1)Reviewed by 01573525

Comment: This study addresses an important and well known topic in cancer research and cancer susceptibility: it is well known that individuals with a family history of GC have higher risk of developing the disease and that early diagnosis is associated with higher risk for family members but the relationship between family history and age at onset/diagnosis is unclear. The authors compare age at diagnosis in patients with or without a first-degree family history of GC to determine whether patients with a family history of GC are diagnosed earlier. They find that early – onset GC before age of 50 is associated with a parental history of early-onset of GC and conclude that individuals having such family history may need screening at a younger age. This is an important message to be conveyed to the readers of the journal. The main limitations of the study are the lack of direct confirmation of family cancer diagnosis and of genetic evaluation. These should be addressed in future work. Strength of this study is the large cohort of GC patients (4282 patients) , with their familial record.

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Response: We appreciated your comment that the main limitations of the study are the lack of direct confirmation of family cancer diagnosis and of genetic evaluation. We will address that in future work.

(2)Reviewed by 72816

Comment: This is an important study and I agree that "Individual having a parent with early-onset gastric cancer may need screening at younger age" You need to refresh the paper concerning the data in tables, you don't have to repeat it in the text

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Response: According to the reviewer's comment, we deleted repeated text especially for numerical data from the result section. .

(3)Reviewed by 00157564

Comment: The authors investigated the relationship of having a parent with gastric cancer to the occurrence of gastric cancer as well as to the age of manifestation of the disease in the offspring. The

major finding is the demonstration of a significant association between early onset gastric cancer in the individual with early onset gastric cancer in the father, but not in the mother. This finding may help to delineate those individuals, who may benefit from the earlier and more vigorous screening for the disease. The paper is well-written; however, a major modification might considerably contribute to further improvement of the quality of data presentation. This major recommendation regards the avoidance of unnecessary repetition of data in the tables and in the text of the result. The authors should delete each numerical data contained in the tables from the text. This way the result will become also much more readable.

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Response: We deleted unnecessary repetition of data in the tables from the text of the result, especially for numerical data. Thank you for your comment.

3. References and type setting were corrected

Thank you again for having chance for revision of our manuscript from the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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