

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

March 30, 2015

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 16601-review.doc).

Title: Comparison of Mongolians and Japanese gastric mucosa including Mongolian gastric cancer observation

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 16601

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) We examined Mongolian gastric mucosa and gastric cancer, but could not obtain a further finding. So we added sentences as follows in *Gastric mucosa* section: "Even though glandular atrophy and intestinal metaplasia scores are low in Mongolians, the incidence of gastric cancer is high (though these scores were not obtained from patients with gastric cancer). In order to solve this paradox, it will be necessary to examine the gastric mucosa of Mongolian patients with gastric cancer. We are planning a gastric mucosal survey of patients with gastric cancer in Uvs, a western province with the highest prevalence of gastric cancer in Mongolia (ASR: 114.6 cases per 100,000 males)" (P13; red sentences)

(2) About 01438833 reviewer's comment, we did not examine Mongolian gastric cases this time. But we believe almost all Mongolian gastric cases are infected with *H. pylori* and most likely affected by *H. pylori*. As the reviewer pointed, C/A index is not a main issue of gastric cancer. So we have added the sentence "Therefore, high C/A ratio, corpus-predominant gastritis, is one of the causative factors of gastric cancer." in the discussion of *C/A ratio* section. (P11: red sentence)

(3) We think one of the reasons why upper third cancer is major in Mongolian gastric cancer is obesity. About another reasons, we added sentences as follows: "Because there are so many advanced cancer cases among Mongolian patients, we must consider the possibility that cardiac cancer enlarged in size were classified as U region cancers. It will be necessary to investigate contributing factors (other than obesity) for the high incidence of gastric cancer in U region. A detailed investigation of environment factors and host factors is also necessary." in the discussion of *Trend of gastric cancer in Mongolians* section. (P11: red sentences)

(4) In reference to the sample article of the attached file (WRITING REQUIRMENTS OF OBSERVATIONAL STUDY), we described discussion according to an item. As there is little association with nodular gastritis, we deleted result and discussion about it. We revised sentences mainly "Trend of gastric cancer in Mongolians", and "Gastric mucosa" part, and deleted repeated sentences and shortened discussion.

(5) According to 03104341 reviewer's comment, we added endoscopic pictures of gastric cancer cases in U region (Figure 7a, b) in discussion of *Trend of gastric cancer in Mongolians* section. (P11)

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 dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Matsuhisa', written in a cursive style.

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