

Dear Editor,

We would like to submit the revised version of our paper entitled “Arterial structure and function in inflammatory bowel disease” for publication in ***World Journal of Gastroenterology***.

We really appreciated the constructive comments of the reviewers and we have modified the paper according to their suggestions. We hope the paper is now improved.

Sincerely, Dr Luca Zanolli

Reviewers' comments:

Reviewer 00036648

This article is a generally well written review covering an interesting and relatively novel topic. I believe there is little to change in the content but for some minor grammatical errors as outlined below: Abstract 1st paragraph; line 9 should read – the SMR IS not reduced 2nd paragraph; line 3 – what does latter refer to – it is not entirely clear from the text; perhaps spell this out more 2nd paragraph; line 4 – spell out full term when mentioned for 1st time – here the example is TNF 2nd paragraph; line 9 – I think describe should be replaced with present (and same sentence in the core tip on next page) Page 4 Introduction 1st paragraph; line 8 – I think that searching for should be replaced with identifying 1st paragraph; line 9 – spell out full term when mentioned for 1st time – here the abbreviation is CVD 3rd paragraph – I think it would read better saying ‘IBD is a chronic inflammatory condition that results from a combination of environmental, genetic and immunologic factors that trigger an uncontrolled immune response within the intestine in genetically predisposed individuals.’ The general flow of the introduction on page 4 is not smooth particularly from first to second paragraph. Page 6 1st paragraph; line 8 – read better saying ‘The degeneration of the elastic fibres is associated with an increase in collagenous material and these changes are often..... Page 7 Subtitle 4 1st paragraph; line 1 – put abbreviation PWV in brackets after pulse wave velocity as the abbreviation is used consistently after this in the review Page 9 Subtitle 7 1st paragraph; line 4 – repetition to prior sentence in same paragraph – suggest a change to ‘In 2009 a study described low flow-mediated.....’ 1st paragraph; line 13 - use abbreviation TNF as abbreviation used earlier and also it should be qualified what TNF antagonists are used for i.e. ‘It was also

observed that endothelial function improves following the administration of TNF-alpha antagonists which are used in the treatment of IBD.' Consider abbreviating ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease to UC and CD throughout article. Page 11 Subtitle 8 Line 2 – should read white blood cell rather than white cell Page 12 Subtitle 9 Line 3 – double negative – reads better with 'However, although the SMR was not reduced, the risk of coronary heart disease.....

Re.: All the errors have been corrected and the text has been modified accordingly.

Reviewer 00035859

This is a review article regarding arterial structure in IBD. The concept is well explained. What may be worth adding is how to actually measure the stiffness in practice.

Re.: The chapter on how to measure arterial stiffness in clinical practice has been improved (Page 7 Subtitle 4).

Also a table summarising the studies may be useful.

Re.: According with the reviewer, a table has been included in the paper (Table 1).

Reviewer 00029041

The paper is well written. The schema of inflammatory biomarkers in the vessels of IBD should be presented for better understanding, such as, figure 2 in the attached example paper (J Am Coll Cardiol. 2012;60:1455-1469).

Re.: The schema has been presented in Figure 4.