

Dear Editor,

with great interest we read the welcomed comments of the reviewer.

1) The reviewer postulates that the manuscript may be of limited interest for the most of the journal readers. Our material is one of the largest series on gastric carcinoids presented in the world and the largest with the histamine metabolite U-MeImAA in these patients. Gastric carcinoids represent a tumor entity on a rise due to the increased number of endoscopies performed and needs further elucidation.

2) We do not think that the results "are likely to be poorly reproducible" as the reviewer postulates but the above tools for sure can be available in large tertiary centers focusing on neuroendocrine tumors. At the departemnt of Endocrine Oncology in Uppsala, which is one of the largest centers of excellence for neuroendocrine tumors, we are able to use advanced diagnostic tools for the investigation of the above tumors. The diagnostic tools used are well described in the literature and the relevant references are provided in the text. Other groups have also used HPLC to determine the urinary excretion of U-MeImAA.

3) Furthermore, the reviewer proposes that "the purpose (to characterize normal mucosa and foci of hyperplasia and gastric NETs) of the study was not fully accomplished" without specifying how the present manuscript can be improved, which makes it challenging for us to answer back in a specific way.

We are looking forward to hearing from you and if possible with a positive answer.

Best regards,

Apostolos Tsolakis MD, PhD