

Dear Reviewers,

The authors really appreciate the kind and helpful comments. All comments have been carefully reviewed and our responses are as follows:

Reviewer: 1

In some cases the reference number is attached to the previous word e.g. “Rho GTPases, and epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)^[46].” In some instances there is no space after a full stop at the end of the sentence and the beginning of the next. E.g. “Inactivation of TGF- β signaling components including TGF- β receptors, Smad2 and Smad4 consist in almost all type of GC^[53]. Several studies have showed the immunoreactivity for TGF- β in gastric carcinomas ranging from 22.8% to 73.8%^[55]. Decreased SMAD4....”

We have checked the full text and added space after the reference number, also added space after a full stop at the end of the sentence. All of the revisions are highlighted in the updated version of the manuscript.