

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



February 10, 2016

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 23925-review.doc).

Title: Correlation between Helicobacter pylori-associated gastric diseases and colorectal neoplasia

Author: Ying Qing, Min Wang, Ying-Min Lin, Dong Wu, Jing-Yu Zhu, Lang Gao, Yan-Yan Liu, Teng-Fei Yin

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 23925

Comment by Reviewer 02440941:

The only thing that I want to point out is in order to enlarge the introduction, because it seems too short.

Answer to Reviewer 02440941:

We added one paragraph introducing the prevalence and development process of colorectal cancer to the *Introduction* part. This also explained why it is important to investigate the pathogenesis and risk factors of colorectal cancer. At the end of the paragraph, we also gave the definition of colorectal neoplasm as a collective name of colorectal cancer and colorectal adenoma.

Comment by Reviewer 00182276:

It is an interesting study, but including too few subjects to have such a conclusion. It is in the text that H. pylori infection may affect colorectal neoplasm formation in different races. I miss from the study the gastrin level measurement but in conclusion

they speculate that gastrin level may influence the neoplasm formation... So following minor revision I accept the article.

Answer to Reviewer 00182276:

We also realized that the sample size of our study was not big enough, and we planned to further study this topic using multi-center data in the future to get more credible conclusion.

Since this is a retrospective study, all the data was collected in advance and so we did not have gastrin level data of the patients. The hypothesis that gastrin level may affect the development of colorectal neoplasm was raised by other previous studies, which were mentioned and cited in the sixth paragraph of the *Discussion* part. We inferred from these studies that different *H. pylori*-associated gastric diseases might associated with colorectal neoplasm in different ways. But our results didn't support this inference. To avoid any misunderstanding, we modified the language of this part and provided an additional explaining for the negative results.