

To Prof. Lian-Sheng Ma,
Editor-in-chief of *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Ref.: ESPS Manuscript NO: 26172: **“Epidemiology of Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders in Infants and Toddlers: a systematic review”**,
Revised manuscript and answers to reviewers

Dear Prof. Lian-Sheng Ma,

On behalf of the co-authors, I wish to thank you for managing this submission and allowing the opportunity to revise the manuscript. All comments from the reviewers were extremely pertinent and helpful to improve the article. Please, find below our point-by-point answers. All changes made in the text were highlighted in yellow.

Hoping that all recommendations from reviewers have been adequately addressed, we feel the manuscript has improved greatly to merit a publication in your prestigious *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards,

Yuan-Pang Wang,
On behalf of co-authors

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ANSWERS TO REVIEWERS' COMMENTS:

Reviewer: 03474957

Reviewer # 03474957: Good review. I would recommend that you would include a paragraph on the ROME 4 diagnostic criteria, which is due to be published next month at DDW and the implications. A paragraph on research and diagnostic implications this may have would be welcome.

R. We added a paragraph on the Rome IV criteria on Page 21, last paragraph. One independent native-English colleague revised the linguistic of the manuscript, in accordance to recommendation of minor language polishing.

Reviewer: 00070726

Reviewer # 00070726: This is a carefully designed and very well written study on the epidemiology of functional gastrointestinal disorders (FGID) in infants and toddlers. The study addresses an important issue because good quality epidemiological data on FGID prevalence in pediatric patients are limited. From a total number of 103 identified articles, 13 of them were included in the final analysis (around 40000 subjects). The search strategies, critical appraisal of literature data and methodological issues are presented in a comprehensive way. Numerous limitations of the analyzed studies have been identified concerning, e.g. study design, sample size, correct sampling, and data collection. The qualitative appraisal revealed that most of the studies were of moderate or below average standard of generalizability. Infant regurgitation and functional constipation were the most common FGID and a vast variation in their prevalence was shown, ranging from 1% to 25.9% and from 1% to 31%, respectively. The paper is supplemented with well designed and helpful tables. Based on the overall data the authors included additional comments and indicated future directions in the field of epidemiological studies concerning FGID. Minor comment: 1. Page 4, line 9th from the top: should be "distension" instead of "distention".

R. Thank you for approving the article, your comment was very encouraging. We changed the word "distension" to "distention" (on page 4), as suggested.