

Answering Reviewers

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 27961-review.doc).

**Title:** Childhood chronic gastritis and duodenitis: role of altered sensory neuromediators

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**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 27961

The manuscript has been improved and revisions have been made according to the suggestions of Reviewers.

**Reviewer 03573132**

1. In the study group, duodenitis was observed in all patients. The following sentence was added to the Results section "*The loss of CD10 staining was more pronounced in cases of severe (based on the severity of mononuclear cell infiltration) duodenitis (33/52).*"
2. In this study, we included patients with chronic gastritis and/or duodenitis. So, we evaluated the degree of mononuclear cell infiltration in the tissue samples. We graded chronic inflammation according to the degree of mononuclear cells infiltration (Sydney I, II, III). We added the phrase "(based on mononuclear cell infiltration)" to the Materials and Methods section.
3. The mean values of the tissue levels of SP, VIP, CGRP have been mentioned in the text. In the study and control groups, no CD10 staining was observed at the gastric *epithelium*. This has been mentioned in the Results section.
4. We investigated only CD10 staining in the duodenal mucosa and not the other peptides. We added a sentence to clarify this to the Results section. '*We investigated CD10 staining in the duodenal mucosa, which reflects NEP activity.*' We suggest that impaired NEP activity can cause or facilitate duodenal damage.

5. Human derived paraffin embedded tissues were used. Ethical approval was obtained by the Ethics Committee at the Faculty of Medicine, Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey (protocol number: 14.05.2012/110).
6. We have cited additional recent references.
7. There are a limited number of studies on the role of neuropeptides in the gastrointestinal system. To the best of our knowledge, this the first study on this topic in children. We have mentioned this issue in the text.
8. The manuscript was edited by the highest quality English editing service.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our manuscript.

#### **Reviewer 03009149**

1. Thank you for pointing this out. There was a typographical error in the number of patients. This was corrected in the figure.
2. We included a description in the Materials and Methods section regarding the diagnosis of Hp infections.
3. We evaluated the degree of mononuclear cell infiltration to identify chronic gastritis and/or duodenitis, and we graded chronic inflammation according to the degree of mononuclear cell infiltration (Sydney I, II, III). We added the phrase "(based on mononuclear cell infiltration)" to the Materials and Methods section.
4. We included this paragraph in the Discussion section. "Finally, we observed no differences in SP, CGRP, or VIP levels in the Hp(+) vs Hp(-) groups, but we found significant differences in patients with grade I vs II-III gastritis. The reason for this is related to the fact that almost half of the patients in the study group, where severe gastritis was more common, were Hp(-). Therefore, we suggest that changes in neuropeptides can cause gastric mucosal damage independent of Hp infection."

Thank you very much for your consideration of our manuscript.