

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



June 9, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 2919-review.doc).

Title: Prevalence and Clinical Features of Colonic Diverticulosis in a Middle Eastern Population

Author: Nahla Azzam, Abdulrahman M Aljebreen, Othman Alharbi, Majid A Almadi.

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 2919

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

- Reviewer comment

The aim of this study is original, because the prevalence of diverticulosis and diverticular disease in Saudi Arabia has been not described yet. And overall, the paper is interesting and worthy to publication.

- Response

We thank the reviewer for his impression about the article and the effort to enhance the article content.

- Reviewer comment

1. The main criticism is in the title. If you are talking about prevalence of diverticula in an unselected population, you are talking about "diverticulosis"; if you are talking about prevalence of diverticula in a symptomatic population, you are talking about "diverticular disease". My advice is to change to title as "...colonic diverticulosis .

- Response

We agreed with the reviewer and the main idea of the study was to look at the prevalence, clinical features of colonic diverticula in asymptomatic patients so the title has been changed accordingly. "Prevalence and Clinical Features of Colonic Diverticulosis in a Middle Eastern Population "

- Reviewers comment

2. Introduction

All data provided should be referenced (e.g. "...Recent evidence showed a rising prevalence of diverticulosis is in Europe, the United States and Australia...": unreferenced).

- Response

We thank the reviewer for his note. References have been added to the statement of the introduction Recent evidence showed a rising prevalence of diverticulosis is in Europe, the United States and Canada [4-6]

4.Etzioni DA, Mack TM, Beart RW, et al. Diverticulosis in the United States: 1998-2005: Changing patterns of disease and treatment. *Ann Surg.* 2009;249:210-7

5. Warner E, Crichton EJ, Moineddin R, et al. Fourteen-year study of hospital admissions for diverticular disease in Ontario. *Can J Gastroenterol.* 2007;21:97-9

6. Kang JY, Hoare J, Tinto A, et al. Diverticular disease of the colon – on the rise: A study of hospital admission in England between 1989/1990 and 1999/2000. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther.* 2003;17:1189-95

- Reviewers comment

How the demographic data were collected? By a computerized database? Please explain.

- Response

We had stated the following in the methodology “demographic data was collected retrospectively, through hospital's information system, electronic file system, endoscopic e-reports, & also through manual review of the files by two research assistants”

- Reviewers comment

Please explain better the definitions. In particular, authors have to define better what is diverticulosis and what is diverticular disease.

- Response

We thank the reviewer for his note. We added the following clarification in the material and methods section.

“colonic diverticulosis was defined as the presence of one or more diverticula, which is a saccular out pouching of the colon .”

And the following statement was added to the introduction

"Diverticular disease (DD) of the colon is referred to the symptomatic diverticula that cause serious medical or surgical complications"

- Reviewers comment

1. Aspirin use was reported; how many patients took NSAIDs?

- Response

Aspirin was taken by 21.33% +/- 4.76 (CI=8.35-11.82). While NSAIDs other than Aspirin were taken by 3.7% +/- 0.5 (CI= 2.64 - 4.83 %)

- Reviewers comment

2. How many patients with asymptomatic diverticulosis showed endoscopic signs of diverticular inflammation?

3. How many symptomatic patients showed signs of diverticular inflammation?

- Response

For both the points mentioned above; none of the patients that were scoped, whether symptomatic or not, had signs of active inflammation as we excluded patients with diverticulitis from the study, and none of those who did not have diverticulitis clinically manifested signs of inflammation on endoscopy.

- Reviewers comment

4. Where the polyps were located? Mainly in the left colon, since the increased cell proliferation in DD?

- Response

65% of Adenomatous polyps were located at the left side of colon and we stated that in the discussion part to prove our hypothesis.

- Reviewers comment

5. Was the right diverticulosis more linked to bleeding?

- Response

When we look at the data from the perspective of bleeding 58% of patients with left sided DD had bleeding, 18% of those with right sided had bleeding, while those with multiple locations 23% had bleeding as an indication for a colonoscopy.

- Reviewers comment

1. Authors stated that the urbanization of the gulf region may explain the higher diverticulosis prevalence in Saudi Arabia. This hypothesis may be right. How many patients were living in rural and how many were living in urban areas? This is the crucial point to confirm the authors' hypothesis

- Response

We thank the reviewer for this point. The study was conducted in one of the largest tertiary care hospitals in Riyadh, the capital of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The caption area of the hospital covers the population inhabiting the northern part of Riyadh, which has an urban inhabitation. The referrals from outside of this caption area we believe is a small fraction but we cannot be sure as we do not have exact statistics.

- Reviewers comment

Again, all data provided should be referenced (e.g. "...Colonic neoplasia and DD have common epidemiological trends and risk factors such as age and a lack of dietary fiber. However, the association between these diseases remain elusive. In a prospective study, Morini and others found an increased risk for sigmoid colon adenomas in Italian patients with DD and in a United States cross-sectional study an increased risk for distal neoplasia was found in women with extensive distal diverticulosis. Such an association was also observed in our study with OR1.76 [95% CI, 1.33-2.33].....": unreferenced

- Response

We thank the reviewer for his note. The references were inserted

"Morini and his colleague⁽³⁶⁾ found an increased risk for sigmoid colon adenomas in Italian patients with colonic diverticulosis and in a United States cross-sectional study an increased risk for distal neoplasia was found in women with extensive distal diverticulosis.⁽³⁷⁾"

3 The spelling and English editing ,the paper was send to American Journal experts and editing was done.

4 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Nahla Azzam, MBBS, FRCPC

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, King Khalid University Hospital

King Saud University, Riyadh, P.O. Box 2925(59), Saudi Arabia

Tel +966-1-4679167

Fax +966-1-4671217

e-mail: nahla5_99@yahoo.com