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Esophagitis and its causes: who is "guilty" when acid is found "not guilty" ?

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## **Reply to reviewer's comments.**

We highly appreciated the criticisms raised by the reviewer.

The esophageal injury by irradiation, claimed by the reviewer, in our opinion is a condition unlikely to be misdiagnosed, since the radiotherapeutic regimen, as well as the use of chemotherapeutic agents, is usually well referred in every patient's history. The aim of our manuscript was to identify all the mechanisms potentially escaping a precise diagnosis, because of lacking anamnesis or insufficient diagnostic procedures. Therefore, it seems difficult not to identify a patient with a cancer history, reasonably undergoing heavy treatments. This is why we had initially decided to rule out this kind of lesions. However, since the suggestion by the reviewer, we agree that it is reasonably worthy to complete all the possible etiologies of esophagitis including the oncologic conditions: a section related to chemotherapy and radiotherapy as possible causes of esophagitis has been added in the revised version (Page 7).

As long as the two other criticisms raised:

- the cut-off number of eosinophils/HPF has been added (Page 3)
- a Figure with a proposed diagnostic flow-chart (Figure 5) and the relative explanation inserted in the final paragraph manuscript have been placed in the revised version of the manuscript (Final Considerations and Conclusions, Pages 7-8).

All these corrections are highlighted in yellow in the updated version of the manuscript.

Best regards

Laurino Grossi