

April 11, 2017

Yuan Qi,

Science Editor, Editorial Office

Baishideng Publishing Group Inc

Dear Prof. Yuan:

Thank you for your letter. We appreciate the thoughtful comments from you and the reviewers. The manuscript has been diligently evaluated and revised taking the reviewers' comments into consideration. We believe that their suggestions and feedback have helped us to substantially improve the manuscript. The changes made during this revision appear as red color in the revised manuscript.

We hope that our revisions and accompanying responses make our manuscript suitable for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely,

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Itemized responses

Responses to comments raised by reviewer

Comment: Abstract needs to be completed by adding methods and conclusion.

Response: Thank you for your comment. We have added a brief description of our approach in the Abstract and Literature Search sections per your suggestion. We have also added a conclusion in the abstract per your suggestion.

Comment: Is it a systematic review? How many papers did they study? which years? from where? Just PubMed?

Response: Thank you very much for your helpful comments. Our manuscript is a Review, per the journal's specified categories. We performed a PubMed search using the key words: "*babA*", "*pylori*", "gastric complications". We retrieved a total of 99 articles that studied BabA from PubMed and 3 via a Google search. These studies were published between 2005 and 2016; however, for a more detailed review, we included few older articles (published between 1989 and 2005). The details are in the Literature Search section of the manuscript.

Comment: Is information in Table 1 gathered from NCBI? please add reference

Response: Thank you for your comment. Yes, the information is gathered from the NCBI database. We added the reference, which is numbered as 31.

Comment: Table 2 is epidemiologic information which is not related to the topic.

Response: Thank you so much for your valuable comment. However, we believe that the information about epidemiological study regarding *babA* in Table 2 is important because it provides insights into the current prevalence of *H. pylori* containing *babA* and the detection methods. Such information is important and may be informative for a certain portion of the journal's readership.

Comment: Fig 1 needs reference

Response: Thank you for your comment. The reference for figure 1 has been added in the manuscript (Ref. 76).

Comment: It is not necessary to define and explain homologous recombination.

Response: Thank you so much for your valuable comment and we agree with your comment. The detailed explanation about homologous recombination has been removed, but we have provided some of this information briefly to clarify the concept.

Comment: The same as above for Slipped strand mispairing and phase variation part . Fig 3 Mechanism of mis pairing ?

Response: Thank you for this valuable comment. We believe that slipped strand mispairing and phase variation are important phenomena that are usually observed in *H. pylori* with short sequence repeats. Hence, we decided to include this section. We apologize but there is no Figure 3 in our manuscript hence we have assumed that you are referring to Figure 2. We have added Fig 2 to give clear concept regarding slipped strand mispairing. If we have misunderstood your intended comment, please accept our apologies and please clarify so that we may address the issue appropriately.