

To:

Yuan Qi, MSc

Science Editor, Editorial Office

Baishideng Publishing Group Inc

Dear Madame:

First of all I would like to thank you and the esteemed Reviewers for the invaluable effort to help improve my manuscript. Please below find the Reviewer's comments/suggestions followed by my answers. Please note that, as suggested by you, the manuscript has been revised according to the 34438-Peer-Reviews.

**Reviewer 1 (Number ID 00503255)**

The authors compared clinical data and test results of protozoan parasites for stool samples between in 109 patients with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and in 100 control individuals, demonstrated that prevalence of Blastocytosis, Cryptosporidium and Giardia is higher in IBS patients than in controls, and concluded that these parasites were likely to have a role in the pathogenesis of IBS. The paper is well-written and has interesting findings. 1. page 9, line 8: "Table 1" should be changed to "Table 2". 2. page 9, line 15: "(Table 2)" should be added after "in controls". 3. page 9, line 12: This paper did not have "(Table 3)". It should be changed to "(Table 2)". 4. page 15, Reference No.22: This reference did not have a title; the title of this paper should be provided.

Answers:

1. "Table 1" has been changed to "table 2".
2. "Table 2" has been added after "in controls".

3. "Table 3" has been changed to "Table 2".
4. The title of the reference has been added/

**Reviewer 2 (Number ID 00051367)**

The study is interesting in the field of the pathogenesis of Ibs. The authors state that the patients have completed symptom questionnaires to evaluate the subtypes of ibs, but in the document these data are not presented. Since most of discussion is based on the subtypes I think it s important to show the clinical description of the patients and their subclassification to evaluate if the conclusions are limited to a specific subtype or extended to all the IBS spectrum.

Answers:

In the results section of the abstract, a sentence on the main subtypes of IBS in our study patients was added.

A paragraph on the subtypes of IBS, as related to the results of the present manuscript, has been added at the end of the discussion section, just before the conclusions.

Sincerely,



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