

## Answers for comments from reviewers

July 28, 2013

Dear Editor Huan-Huan Zhai,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 4053-review.doc).

**Title: No Evidence of HPV-DNA in Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma in a population of Southern Brazil**

**Author:** Luís Carlos Moreira Antunes, João Carlos Prolla, Antonio de Barros Lopes, Marta Pires da Rocha, Renato Borges Fagundes

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 4053

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated according to the suggestion of the editor.

**A "Comments" section is now include in the revised manuscript.**

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

**Reviewer 00506553:**

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript.

(1) Comment: Modify the title as: "No evidence of HPV-DNA in Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma in a population of Southern Brazil".

**Response: Done**

(2) The conclusion of the abstract is too emphatic. There are some factors such as the sensitivity of the technique, the sampling of patients and the sampling procedure (the biopsy site)... that can be affecting the final results. I suggest changing for: "There was no evidence of HPV infection in different ESCC from the southern of Brazil."

**Response: Done**

(3) Please clarify the origin of the samples or patients (there are two institutions in the ethics).

**Response:** We evaluated 189 consecutive esophageal samples, collected in Santa Maria, a city in the central region of Rio Grande do Sul, the most southern state in Brazil, from 2008 to 2011. The project was designed within the Postgraduate Program at UFRGS, where the data analysis was performed. The sample collection was held in Santa Maria. The protocol was submitted to the Ethics Committees of both institutions: Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul and Federal University of Santa Maria.

**Reviewer 00506601:**

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript.

(1) Material and methods: It looks like the patients were accumulated from two hospitals from looking at the ethics statement but it is not clearly stated in the methods

section. This should be stated clearly in the paper. There should also be a statement on how representative the hospitals are to the area and if the patients can be generalized to any larger population in Brazil or are they just a convenience sample. There is no real information on how the patients were selected or when they were selected. This needs to be added.

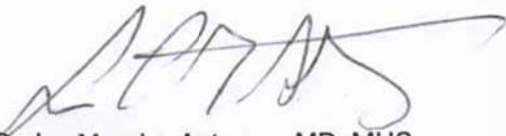
**Response: This comment is similar to the comment raised by reviewer # 00506553 in point 3 (please see comments above). We add a comment in the manuscript making clear this issue.**

3 References and typesetting were corrected.

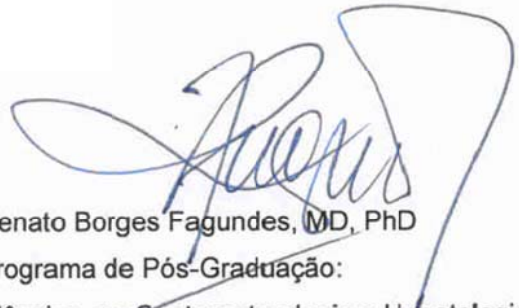
**We added the requested number of references to our paper.**

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

Sincerely yours,



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