November 8, 2012

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 000423 - EoE case validation Denmark - 2012.11.08 - revised.docx). All changes are highlighted in yellow. We thank you for the opportunity to resubmit this manuscript for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

**Title:** Development and validation of a registry-based definition of eosinophilic esophagitis in Denmark

**Authors:** Evan S. Dellon, Rune Erichsen, Lars Pedersen, Nicholas J. Shaheen,John A. Baron, Henrik T. Sørensen, and Mogens Vyberg

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 423

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

1. Format has been updated as per *World Journal of Gastroenterology* guidelines. Specially, the format has been re-confirmed to now meet the “Brief Article” instructions, including the appropriate word counts in the title and abstract, and also the comments section at the end of the paper.

2. Revisions were previously made according to the suggestions of the reviewer. A summary of the response is as follows:

 (A) The reviewer asked: *How did you exclude reflux disease (erosive and non erosive?) in your analysis? Did you also re-review biopsies from the duodenum?*

We addressed the issue of reflux disease in two ways, with the understanding that the most recent consensus guidelines for EoE (Liacouras et al, JACI, 2011) allow for some overlap between GERD and EoE. First, because all biopsies were re-reviewed, we were able to assess whether there was a mixed inflammatory infiltrate such as would often be seen in reflux, and none of the confirmed EoE cases in the reference standard group had this finding. Second, for the more specific case definition, by requiring that there was a PPI prescription in the two months prior to the endoscopy, we attempted to eliminate patients with GERD who would have improved with this therapy. Because we did not have access to endoscopic images, we are unable to comment on the prevalence of erosive or non-erosive reflux disease. We have added these details to the methods section (page 4).

We did not re-review biopsies from the duodenum, but to address the issue of possible overlap between EoE and eosinophilic gastroenteritis or other eosinophilic GI disorder, our case definition algorithm excludes any patient with the ICD-10 code K52.8 – eosinophilic gastritis/duodenitis. This is noted in Table 1.

 (B) The reviewer suggested that *Figure 1 should be explained better in the legend especially y - axes.* Therefore, we revised our explanation of Figure 1 in the legend, with special attention to clarifying the values on the x and y-axes (page 21).

3. This paper was prepared and written by a native English speaker and given a rating of “A” on the review. Therefore, language certification is not needed.

We hope this re-revised manuscript addressing the editor’s comments is now suitable for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. On behalf of my co-authors, thank you for your interest in our manuscript.

Sincerely,



Evan S. Dellon, MD MPH

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

University of North Carolina School of Medicine