

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



September 8, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5075-review.doc).

Title: Metabolomics as a diagnostic tool in gastroenterology

Author: Vicky De Preter, Kristin Verbeke

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Pharmacology and Therapeutics*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5075

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

1 Format has been updated

Author contributions and 100-word core tip were inserted.

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

(1) Reviewer 02445717

The spelling of the text was checked. No other changes recommended.

(2) Reviewer 02445669

The spelling of the text was checked. No other changes recommended.

(3) Reviewer 01801246: An explanation about the recent findings of the association between pathophysiology of IBS and gut minor inflammation was added to the text. Also the concept of IBD-IBS was explained.

IBS patients have symptoms of pain and bowel dysfunction. A subset of patients that developed IBS after an infection, so-called post-infectious IBS, may have microscopic inflammation but with normal mucosal appearance on endoscopy. Recently, a new IBS entity, IBD-IBS, has been described: these patients have pain and diarrhea similar to IBS in association with minimal or no evident intestinal inflammation.

Disruption of the balance between the host and the intestinal microbiota results in changes in the mucosal immune system that range from overt inflammation, as seen in Crohn's disease, to low-grade inflammation without tissue injury, as seen in a subset of IBS patients.

Added references:

Grover M, Herfarth H, Drossman DA. The functional-organic dichotomy: postinfectious irritable bowel syndrome and inflammatory bowel disease-irritable bowel syndrome. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 2009; 7: 48-53 [PMID: 18848909 DOI: 10.1016/j.cgh.2008.08.032]

Collins SM, Denou E, Verdu EF, Bercik P. The putative role of the intestinal microbiota in the irritable bowel syndrome. Dig Liver Dis 2009; 41: 850-853 [PMID: 19740713 DOI: 10.1016/j.dld.2009.07.023]

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Pharmacology and Therapeutics*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kristin Verbeke', with a horizontal line underneath.

Kristin Verbeke, PhD, Professor
Translational Research Center for Gastrointestinal Disorders
UZ Gasthuisberg, O&N1, box 701
Herestraat 49
3000 Leuven
Belgium
Kristin.Verbeke@med.kuleuven.be