

Dear Editor and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers' comments concerning our manuscript entitled "A Gastrocolic Fistula in Crohn's Disease Detected by Oral Agent Contrast-enhanced Ultrasound: A Case Report of A Novel Ultrasound Modality" (Manuscript NO: 52648). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have carefully evaluated the reviewers' critical comments and thoughtful suggestions, responded to these suggestions point-by-point, and revised the manuscript accordingly. All changes made to the text are in red so that they may be easily identified. With regard to the reviewers' comments and suggestions, we wish to reply as follows:

Reviewer: 03724099

Comment 1: on what basis did the authors suspect a GC fistula?

Response: When the patient took oral intraluminal contrast agent, OA-CEUS was performed. Contrast agent dilated the lumen of the upper gastrointestinal tract. Thus, a good acoustic window was provided for gastrointestinal tract scanning and impediment of gas inside gastrointestinal tract was removed. With the help of the "window", we observed a canal with hypoechoic wall connecting the two hollow organ (stomach and colon) with hyperechoic gas flowing dynamically inside. By that, we can judge the existence of the fistula with its two openings in two ends.

Comment 2: Why Ba enema or meal were not utilized to look for a GCF?

Response: In fact, it can be considered that OA-CEUS is a kind of US meal for gastrointestinal tract similar to Ba enema or meal, which is radiation free. The physician selected OA-CEUS as the optimal imaging modality based on the patient's poor condition at the time. OA-CEUS had enabled us to observe the

fistulae clearly. In order to alleviate the patient's physical pain and avoid radiation accumulation, Ba enema or meal was not performed.

We appreciate for Editors/Reviewers' warm work earnestly, and hope that the correction will meet with approval.

Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

Shuang Wu, M.D.

Corresponding author:

Name: Hua Zhuang, M.D. & Ph.D.

E-mail: annzhuang@yeah.net

Department of Diagnostic Ultrasound, West China Hospital of Sichuan University, Chengdu, China