

Dear Editors of *World Journal of Gastroenterology*,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (Uno Revised version: 5436-review.doc).

**Title:** Novel Role of Toll like Receptors in *Helicobacter pylori*-induced gastric malignancy

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

1 Format has been updated

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

**Reviewer 1 (02536230)**

- (1) As suggested, we added the sentences in the introduction, as follows. "In this review, we aim to clarify recent discoveries in a role of pattern recognition systems in the innate immunity against *H. pylori*-related carcinogenesis."
- (2) As suggested, we study previous studies of TLRs and confirm that thirteen TLRs have been discovered, 10 of which have been identified in humans so far (Nat Rev Immunol. 2013 Aug;13(8):551-65. doi: 10.1038/nri3479. Broz P, Monack DM, Newly described pattern recognition receptors team up against intracellular pathogens.)". Based on these papers, we changed sentence, as follows, "Although thirteen TLRs have been discovered in mammalian, ten types of TLRs have been identified in humans."
- (3) As suggested, we added a diagram of the roles of TLRs in *H.pylori*-induced innate immunity (Figure2).
- (4) As suggested, we added a sentence in the head of "Gene polymorphisms of TLRs in gastric cancer", as follows, "*H. pylori* is a major cause of gastric cancer, but only 1%-2% of *H. pylori*-infected individuals develops gastric cancer. [62] Recently a meta-analysis of large population-based cohort studies in Europe revealed an association between a variation of TLR1 genetic loci (4p14) and *H. pylori* seroprevalence. [63] The study was conducted on white populations, therefore some sample bias should be considered on different races. However, the polymorphisms of TLRs might play an important role in modulation of the direction and magnitude of the host response against the infection. This might also encourage a possible link between genetic polymorphisms of TLRs and *H.pylori*-associated carcinogenesis. Recent studies revealed the presence of SNPs of TLRs and their relationships with gastric cancer development (Table2). However, implications of single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in genetic function have not been fully clarified."

**Reviewer 2 (00039368)**

- (1) As suggested, we added the sentences in the figure legends, as follows. "Figure 1; intracellular signal propagation of human TLRs and corresponding ligands in innate immunity. TLRs and ligands in human are revealed in the figure. Individual TLRs recognize specific PAMPs or DAMPs of corresponding ligands. TLR signaling is propagated by activation of its cytoplasmic TIR (Toll/IL-1 R) domain and cooperation with various adaptor molecules, such as MyD-88, TIRAP, TOLLIP, IRAK, TRAF, TRIF, and TRAM (abbreviations are summarized below). TLR signaling consists of two distinct pathways with MyD-88-dependent and independent fashions. 1) MyD-88-dependent pathway: The MyD88 dependent pathway is down-stream of TLR1, TLR2, TLR4, TLR5, TLR6, TLR7 and TLR9. This pathway leads to the production of proinflammatory cytokines and is triggered by the association of activated TIR domain and MyD-88, recruitment of IRAK1, IRAK4 and TRAF6 to TLR-MyD-88 complex and consequent phosphorylation of IRAK1 and TRAF6. The signal is propagated by these phosphorylated adaptor molecular complex to the down-stream MAP kinases-AP1 and IKK complex-NF- $\kappa$ B. 2) MyD88-independent pathway: This is associated with the induction of INF-beta mediated by TLR3 or TLR4 activation. Intracellular signaling via MyD-88 independent pathway is propagated by the action of TRIF and TRAM as adaptor molecules. The signal consequently activates IKK pathway to produce INF-beta."

**Reviewer 3 (01002233)**

- (1) As suggested, we revised the sentences and added the reference, as followed, "the stomach originally lacks intraepithelial T lymphocytes and a coordinating lymph system. [10]"
- (2) As suggested, we added the legends to make sure their roles, as follows. "Figure 1; intracellular signal propagation of human TLRs and corresponding ligands in innate immunity"
- (3) TLRs and ligands in human are revealed in the figure. Individual TLRs recognize specific PAMPs or DAMPs of corresponding ligands. TLR signaling is propagated by activation of its cytoplasmic TIR (Toll/IL-1 R) domain and cooperation with various adaptor molecules, such as MyD-88, TIRAP, TOLLIP, IRAK, TRAF, TRIF, and TRAM (abbreviations are summarized below). TLR signaling consists of two distinct pathways with MyD-88-dependent and independent fashions. 1) MyD-88-dependent pathway: The MyD88 dependent pathway is down-stream of TLR1, TLR2, TLR4, TLR5, TLR6, TLR7 and TLR9. This pathway leads to the production of proinflammatory cytokines and is triggered by the association of activated TIR domain and MyD-88, recruitment of IRAK1, IRAK4 and TRAF6 to TLR-MyD-88 complex and consequent phosphorylation of IRAK1 and TRAF6. The signal is propagated by these phosphorylated adaptor molecular complex to the down-stream MAP kinases-AP1 and IKK complex-NF- $\kappa$ B. 2) MyD88-independent pathway: This is associated with the induction of INF-beta mediated by TLR3 or TLR4 activation. Intracellular signaling via MyD-88 independent pathway is propagated by the action of TRIF and TRAM as adaptor molecules. The signal consequently

- activates IKK pathway to produce INF-beta.”
- (3) As suggested, we revised the sentences, “Contrary to expectations, H. pylori-LPS is a weak stimulus of the immune response in comparison to LPS from other gram-negative bacteria owing to the unique structure of lipid core A of H. pylori-LPS [35, 36].”
  - (4) As suggested, we added a reference.
  - (5) As suggested, we revised sentences by native English speaker, as follows. “H. pylori is a major cause of gastric cancer, but only 1%-2% of H. pylori-infected individuals develops gastric cancer. [62] Recently a meta-analysis of large population-based cohort studies in Europe revealed an association between a variation of TLR1 genetic loci (4p14) and H. pylori seroprevalence. [63] The study was conducted on white populations, therefore some sample bias should be considered on different races. However, the polymorphisms of TLRs might play an important role in modulation of the direction and magnitude of the host response against the infection. This might also encourage a possible link between genetic polymorphisms of TLRs and H.pylori-associated carcinogenesis. Recent studies revealed the presence of SNPs of TLRs and their relationships with gastric cancer development (Table2). However, implications of single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in genetic function have not been fully clarified.”
  - (6) We are sorry, and we ask another native English speaker to revise our manuscript.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

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