

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



October 18th, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5733-review.doc).

Title: HOW ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCES COULD CHANGE *HELICOBACTER PYLORI* TREATMENT : A MATTER OF GEOGRAPHY?

Authors: Enzo Ierardi, Floriana Giorgio, Giuseppe Losurdo, Alfredo Di Leo, Mariabeatrice Principi

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5733

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

A table that summarize the prevalence of H. pylori infection, can help to better understand the data reported in the paper.

According to this suggestion, a table with infection prevalence in the different geographic areas referred to the last 5 years was enclosed in revised manuscript.

Current interest in probiotics as therapeutic agents against H. pylori is stimulated not only by the clinical data showing efficacy of some probiotics in different gastrointestinal diseases but also by the increasing resistance of pathogenic bacteria to antibiotics, thus the interest for alternative therapies is a real actual topic. Several studies demonstrated an inhibitory activity of probiotics on H. pylori growth and that this effect is extremely strain specific. Literature report that probiotics seems to be efficacious for the prevention of antibiotic associated side-effects. A sentence on this research point is necessary in line to describe the new possible therapeutic strategies.

A dedicated section to the state of art about the relationship between H. pylori and probiotics has been included in the revised manuscript.

Many double spaces are present in the text.

A revision of the whole text has been performed.

Reviewer 2

A nice review in which highlighted the outline of the main data regarding antibiotic resistances, with a particular attention to the discrepant results coming from different geographic areas worldwide as well as the differences in the same districts.

Reviewer 3

This is an interesting review on antibiotic resistance of *H. pylori*. Major comments;

1. Antibiotic resistance rate is quite variable even in the same country. Different methods used for antibiotic resistance may affect the results. This should be commented.

The possibility that different methods of resistance assessment or intra-operator disagreements may have affected the results of literature has been emphasized in revised manuscript.

2. Among east Asian countries, Korean data is omitted in clarithromycin resistance.

Lacking data have been enclosed in revised manuscript.

Minor comments 1. Southern Korea -> South Korea

The suggested correction has been performed.

Reviewer 4

This manuscript reviews key current aspects of antibacterial therapy for *H. pylori* infection.

1. The authors comment about the four continents as if there are only four!

Data from Oceania have been reported in revised manuscript.

2. There are numerous errors of grammar and word usage throughout every section of the manuscript. Very close attention to these details, with possible guidance from others, would enhance the manuscript

The manuscript has been revised by a native speaker.

3. Some sections, such as the descriptions of the individual antibiotics, could be enhanced with more attention to flow whilst providing a more clear discussion.

The suggestion led us to modify some sentences in text and perform a language revision. We did not believe useful to increase the manuscript information amount, since the main topic of the paper was to focus the problem of geographic differences in antibiotic resistances. On the other hand, antibiotic mechanisms of action as well as changes inducing resistances have been strongly detailed in a previous Editorial from our group [*World J Gastrointest Pathophysiol.* 2011 15;2(3):35-41]. This paper is obviously present in the reference list.

4. The word scheme could be replaced with the better term "regimen".

The suggestion was taken into account.

5. The figures should be reconsidered. It would be more helpful to have both comparisons together. Also the figure legends should be revised so that these are more independent.

The two figures of the first version of the manuscript were merged into a single one containing the minimal values

in the left and the maximal ones in the right side. Therefore, the figure legend was only one and allows to have a easy approach to the changing resistance rates in the five continents.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

Enzo Ierardi, Associate Professor,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Enzo Ierardi', with a stylized, cursive script.

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