October 31, 2013

Dear editor,

Thank you very much for providing our opportunity to revise our review and reviewers' suggestful comments. We have revised it point to point in accordance with the reviewers' suggestions in this revision. Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in word format (file name: 5874-revised.doc).

Title: Role of *Helicobacter pylori* virulence factor CagA in gastric MALT lymphoma

Author: Hongping Wang, Yongliang Zhu, Wei Shao

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5874

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:
1 Format has been updated according to your journal request.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers, and listed one by one:

(1) Please add the following paper to the reference and discuss in more detail. Hidekazu Suzuki, Toshihiro Nishizawa, Hitoshi Tsugawa, Sachiko Mogami, ToshifumiHibi. Roles of oxidative stress in stomach disorders. Journal of Clinical Biochemistry and Nutrition?Vol. 50 (2012) No. 1 P 35-39 Handa O, Naito Y, Yoshikawa T. Redox biology and gastric carcinogenesis: the role of Helicobacter pylori. Redox Rep. 2011;16(1):1-7.

Response : Two references have been added into context and disccussed in detail.

(2) At first, authors should distinguish 'MALT lymphoma' and 'malignant lymphoma, such as diffuse large cell B-cell lymphoma'.

Response: We have replaced references about diffuse large cell B-cell lymphoma and revised the relevant data and citation from"56.3-80%" to "77.5-94%" of patients.

(3) As same, authors should distinguish 'CagA protein' and 'cagA gene'.

Response: We have carefully checked and corrected CagA protein and *cagA* gene in context.

(4) Authors concluded that CagA protein is strongly associated with the gastric MALT lymphoma. How about EPIYA motif polymorphism? If your hypothesis is right, EPIYA ABD type in East-Asian strain and EPIYA ABCC or ABCCC types in Western type have potential to develop MALT lymphoma.

Response: The CagA sequence polymorphism and geographical difference among strains have been disccussed in the revision. Almost all CagA contains both EPIYA-A and EPIYA-B motifs. The EPIYA-C motif is usually present in one to three repeat，forming the typical Western CagA configuration of ABC, ABCC and ABCCC subtype. In contrast, the EPIYA-D motif rarely repeats and thus prevalent East Asian CagA strains are ABD combinations.

(5) How about incidence rate of MALT lymphoma among difference populations. East Asian may have higher risk of MALT lymphoma, because most H. pylori strain has cagA gene and EPIYA ABD type.

Response: Epidemiological data which has been disccussed in context showed that the incidence rate of gastric MALT lymphoma is higher in East Asia than in Western countries. East Asian might be prone to gastric MALT lymphoma at least partly, if not all, because most *H. pylori* strains are CagA-positive and nearly 90% CagA carry EPIYA-D motif, 83.6% of which are of EPIYA-ABD genotype.

(6) Please make a Figure shown association and mechanism of MALT lymphoma development related with cagA gene.

Response: We have added a new figure to clarify the association and mechanism of MALT lymphoma development related with *cagA* gene.

(7) Please check style of World J Gastroenterol. References.

Response: References and typesetting were corrected in accordance with the style of World J Gastroenterol. References.

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

Sincerely yours,

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