



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 62078

**Title:** Fatigue in patients with inflammatory bowel disease in Eastern China

**Reviewer's code:** 01589311

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Full Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Brazil

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-12-28

**Reviewer chosen by:** Ya-Juan Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-12-28 20:48

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-12-29 20:36

**Review time:** 23 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



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This is an observational study by Gong and colleagues, examining the prevalence of fatigue and its relationship with quality of life and work productivity in a cohort of Chinese patients with IBD. The authors claim that the prevalence of fatigue in IBD patients in eastern China is remarkably high, and is probably related to depression, anxiety, anemia, and IBD-related surgery. Moreover, investigators found that fatigue had a negative impact on quality of life and was positively correlated with work productivity loss. The overall structure of the manuscript is complete, as requested by the Editorial instructions of the journal. The text and figures are well structured and the methods employed are logical and well described. In regard to the ethical considerations, the text appears to be appropriate. Regarding the selection of patients, the authors acknowledged the single-center origin, and small number of cases as limitations of the study, in the Discussion section. Major points: 1) The text presenting conclusions and future directions is logical, but it lacks a more deep insight into the differences found by this study, compared to findings of other studies, from different regions. What should be the explanation for the higher prevalence of fatigue in Chinese patients? Is it possible that the diagnosis is still done only late in the course of the disease? How adequately are patients currently treated in that region? 2) When authors state that fatigue is detected even in patients who are in remission, is it possible that some degree of subclinical activity might be present? Do authors think that this could be related to persistent endoscopic or histological activity? How accurate can be clinical and simple laboratory evaluation regarding the inflammatory activity of IBD? 3) This study presents data on IBD-related surgery and its association as a risk factor for fatigue. Nevertheless, it would be important to show the numbers of surgeries for Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC), separately. This could be performed in Table 1, presenting demographics and clinical features. If possible, present all data separately (a column for CD and another one for UC). The Table should continue to be descriptive. There is no point on comparing CD versus



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UC, as subgroup analysis with small numbers would render data difficult to interpret.

Minor comments: 1) In some parts of the manuscript, the authors present abbreviations prior to the definitions (in parenthesis). This occurs even in the abstract. 2) Results: a. 1st paragraph: "Regarding the duration of disease, participants reported a median of 5 (IQR, 2-12)." Did authors mean 5 years? b. Figures 1, 3 and 5: What are the small inserts within the graphs? Please, explain in the Figure and in their respective legends, what are the large and the small graphs. c. Did authors use another software to build the graphs of Figures 1, 3 and 5? In the section regarding statistical analysis, they mention SPSS version 24. Did authors use SPSS to build those graphs, too? 3) In Article highlights, Research perspectives: a. The investigators recommend "Clinicians and patients should be aware of and prevent the incidence of fatigue." How do authors think that such action should be performed? Do they think that the treatment of fatigue should be a therapeutic goal itself? Or it should be seen in the context of anemia, depression, anxiety, and etc.? Or perhaps the presence of fatigue, as a somewhat underrated symptom, should be more actively investigated and understood as a reflection of inadequate treatment?



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 62078

**Title:** Fatigue in patients with inflammatory bowel disease in Eastern China

**Reviewer's code:** 05372534

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Iran

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-12-28

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-12-28 08:58

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-12-30 19:57

**Review time:** 2 Days and 10 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



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1. The title is long to be slightly shorter. 2.The abstract should be summarized. 400 words is a lot. 3.The keywords were appropriate 4. The contextual description was appropriate 5.The method was appropriate 6.The method was appropriate 7.The discussion and conclusion were appropriate 8.Use resource management software such as Mendel and Endonet for reference



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 62078

**Title:** Fatigue in patients with inflammatory bowel disease in Eastern China

**Reviewer's code:** 05451950

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Turkey

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-12-28

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-12-28 09:58

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-01-13 07:28

**Review time:** 15 Days and 21 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

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I read the article entitled “Fatigue in Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Eastern China: Prevalence, Risk Factors and the Relationship with Quality of Life and Work Productivity” with a great interest. The study assesses fatigue in inflammatory bowel disease with a sufficient study population. Besides this, I have several humble criticisms that can be seen below: 1-Introduction may be shorter, brief information is better for not to confuse readers. 2-Prevalence of fatigue and its relationship with quality of life and work productivity in general population would be written briefly. 3-Hypoproteinemia and hypoalbuminemia are different terms, please correct. 4-Please determine laboratory cut-offs according to international guidelines, instead of laboratory reference range. 5-Please define the criteria of active disease: “A total of 51.45% of IBD patients were in the active phase of the disease”. 6-Assessing psychopathologic disorders like depression, anxiety etc. with self-report questionnaires provides more subjective data. Assessing the psychiatric disorders with a more objective and standardized method (such as SCID) would increase the quality of the design. 7- Absence of a homogeneous control group to compare the variables with IBD patients is decreasing the quality of the study. A control group should be enrolled to assess the results more accurately.



## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 62078

**Title:** Fatigue in patients with inflammatory bowel disease in Eastern China

**Reviewer's code:** 01589311

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Full Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Brazil

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-12-28

**Reviewer chosen by:** Le Zhang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-01-15 12:26

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-01-15 12:44

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors satisfactorily addressed all comments and suggestions, and responded to the



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questions. The manuscript is now very clear and more accurate in several aspects.