

1 Peer-review report

Reviewer #1: In this work the authors evaluated the efficacies of serum G-17, PGI, PGII, and PGI/PGII ratio (PGR) for predicting upper gastrointestinal bleeding among peptic ulcer patients. They concluded that serum G-17 is significantly elevated in peptic ulcer patients and higher levels are predictive of complication by upper gastrointestinal bleeding. The Idea is good, the aim was clear, the work was sufficient to achieve the aim with impressive conclusion. The manuscript was written by a readable language but it needs some revision regarding grammar and punctuation. Material and Methods: In this sector the authors included part of the result describing demographic data of the studied populationit should be transferred to the result sector.

Response: Thank you for your comments. The reviewers suggested transferring the result describing demographic data of the studied population into the Results sector. The authors consider that the current format may enable the readers to better understand the clinical data of the enrolled patients. If necessary, we'll remove this part into the Materials and Methods section.

The authors did not describe how they test for gastrin-17 and what type of kits used and the duration of fasting.

Response: We appreciate your questions. G-17 kit was purchased from BIOHIT Healthcare (Hefei). In addition, the duration of fasting should be ≥ 6 h. We've supplemented these descriptions into the revised manuscript.

The authors used a fixed reference range for the tested variables without mention of the reference of this normal. I think it was better to use healthy volunteer group as a control for this variables as advised by Liu et al who stated that "Every laboratory should establish its own reference interval for G-17 level" in: J Clin Lab Anal. 2020;34:e23518. |

1 of 5 <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcla.23518> J Clin Lab Anal. 2020;34:e23518. | 1 of 5 <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcla.23518> J Clin Lab Anal. 2020;34:e23518.

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Response: We highly appreciate your constructive comments. In the present study, the reference range for the tested variables was determined according to the manufacturer's instructions, which has been validated by scientific testings. As for the reference you recommended, Liu *et al.* adopted different testing methods from us.

Hence, the reference range can not be directly applied in the present study. Thank you for your professional questions.

Table 3 is not informative and significance is not clear. It is better for each table to mention the statistical test used.

Response: According to the reviews' professional comments, the title of Table 3 has been revised to "*Association between serum gastrin-17 and upper gastrointestinal bleeding among different ages groups*".

Discussion: The discussion is weak and needs potentiation by comparing your results with others e.g. Li and Song in Journal of the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan 2020, Vol. 30(12): 1269-1272 Some advices for correction are marked in the manuscript.

Response: Thank you. We've made corresponding revisions and improvement in the Discussion section according to the reviewers' suggestions.