

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

December 30, 2013



Dear Editor,

Thank you for the comments on the previous version of our manuscript. Please forward our appreciation to the referees for their comments and constructive criticisms, which we believe have improved the manuscript considerably

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 7496.doc).

Title: The endocrine cells in the oxyntic mucosa of the stomach in patients with irritable bowel syndrome

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 7496

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

Point-by-point response to the reviewers

I. Reviewer 00504702

1. Table 1 is added as recommended by the referee. Table 1 is referred to in page 10 lines 1 and 2.

II. Reviewer 00183658

1. As regard the sample size of the cohort of IBS patients: The present study is not an epidemiological study that requires a large sample of patients. It is rather a combination of clinical and basic science with much laboratory analysis. Relatively, the study included a large cohort for such kind of studies (compare Coates MD et al. *Gastroenterology* 2004; **126**: 1657-1664; El-Salhy M et al. *Int J Mol Med* 2009; **23**: 703-707). Moreover, the patients included in the study are clinically very well characterized: They are not merely included because they fulfilled Rome III criteria, but also after excluding all other gastrointestinal diseases that mimic IBS symptoms through a complete physical examination blood tests to exclude inflammatory, liver, endocrine, and any other systemic diseases, as well as a colonoscopy with segmental biopsies. As referee 00504702 mentioned **“Overall, this study was a LOT of work”**. I dare say larger sample with well-characterized patients and with this type of laboratory work is impossible to perform.
2. The present study is a result of several years of planning and hard work and the results are rather heavy. We cannot mention facts without referring to the sources, hence the many references.
3. The functions and known mechanisms of ghrelin are mentioned in page 12 lines 8-10 from bottom, for serotonin in page 12, lines 3-4 from bottom, for somatostatin page 13 lines 4-5.
4. The clinical applications of the study are commented upon in page 13, lines 1-4 from the bottom.

III. Reviewer 00503824

1. Histamine results mentioned in page 9, lines 2-3 from bottom.
2. The rationale for looking at these cells.....was described clearly in the manuscript.
3. The study investigated IBS patients, hence the title is correct. Some of these patients had FD. Distinguishing between IBS and IBS +FD patients is clinically difficult (I refer to references cited in the manuscript and Quigley EM: *Neurogastroenterol Motil* 2007; **19**: 793-797).

4. The abstract was prepared according to the journal styl.
5. Yeas, we used multivariate analysis was used as mentioned in page 9, lines 7-9.
6. The values in result scetion, abstract and figures are changed and are expressed as median with interquartile.
7. As regard the number of figures, the authors of the manuscript have discussed that prior to submisson and we also thought the number of figures was high. However, we found it difficult to omitt any of them as they are essentail to illustrate the outcome of the study. It is a large comperensive study and the refrees **Reviewer 00504702 and Reviewer 00183658 seem to agree with us that the figures are necessary. We leave this matter in the hand of the editor and accept his judgment. If we follow the recommendation of the referee by omitting the pictures of the cells and their density, what would be left?**

Thank you again for considering our manuscript for publication in the *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*.

Sincerely yours,

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