

April 25, 2014

Dear editor,

please find enclosed the edited manuscript in MS Word format (file name: 7735-review.docx). It has in addition been revised for language by a professional editing service.

**Title:** Is peracetic acid suitable for the cleaning step of reprocessing flexible endoscopes?

**Authors:** Günter Kampf, Patricia Fliß, Heike Martiny

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

**ESPS Manuscript Number:** 7735

The manuscript has been changed according to the suggestions of all four reviewers:

1 Length of manuscript, number of references (all four reviewers)

- (1) The manuscript has been substantially shortened (by 2269 words). It has also been more or less completely restructured to highlight the principal type of contaminants (proposal by reviewer 2723208) and in order to be less exhausting and less repetitive (proposal by reviewer 2729987).

2 Abstract

- (1) The first sentence has been deleted (proposal by reviewers 2729987 and 2861598)
- (2) The entire abstract has been shortened and revised (proposal by reviewers 2861598 and 2723208). It has now 231 words.
- (3) No further changes were implemented although proposed by reviewer 1588319 because our version of the writing requirements of review suggests an informative, unstructured abstract of no less than 200 words. We consider our abstract to comply with the requirement.

3 Clarity on the cleaning step

- (1) The title has been changed to be clearer on the cleaning step (proposal by reviewer 2723208). The specific proposal on the title by the respected reviewer had 15 words but only 12 are allowed.
- (2) Table 3: an additional column has been added to describe the use of peracetic acid during processing in each outbreak or pseudo-outbreak (proposal by reviewer 2723208).

4 Discussion of "Organic contaminants and bioburden..." and "Removal of residual organic material..."

- (1) The discussion of the two parts has been shortened (proposal by reviewer 2861598).

5 Study selection, type of review

- (1) A flow diagram has been added which explains the whole process of study selection (proposal by reviewers 2861598 and 1588319).
- (2) Based on the proposal of reviewer 2723208 we consider our manuscript now to be a narrative review. That is why we have not added "Materials and methods" as proposed by reviewer 1588319.

6 Minor additional changes

- (1) A misspell was corrected (proposal by reviewer 2729987).
- (2) Figure 1 (now Figure 2): arrows have been added (proposal by reviewer 1588319).
- (3) Tables 2-6 are now in a horizontal type to be more readable (proposal by reviewer 2723208).
- (4) A brief description of detergent-based cleaning agents has been added (proposal by reviewer 2723208). In addition, the major advantages of classical cleaning agents are indirectly described in Table 5 which describes effects and possible outcomes of peracetic acid use for cleaning flexible endoscopes compared with classical cleaning agents.

#### 7 Editorial changes

- (1) All reference numbers are now in square brackets in superscript directly at the end of the citation.
- (2) The PMID and DOI citations have been added whenever they were available.

The following proposal was considered, but no changes were made:

Table 2 as a flow diagram (proposal by reviewer 1588319): The durations of standard steps are variable depending on the type of disinfectant or the type of washer disinfectant so that we consider it to be more accurate to present the standard protocol in a Table.

Looking forward to your final decision,

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G. Kampf".

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