

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS

January 28, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 8323-review.doc).

**Title:** Novel diagnostics for aggravating pancreatic fistulas at the acute phase after pancreatectomy

**Author:** Mitsuro Kanda, Tsutomu Fujii, Hideki Takami, Masaya Suenaga, Yoshikuni Inokawa, Suguru Yamada, Daisuke Kobayashi, Chie Tanaka, Hiroyuki Sugimoto, Masahiko Koike, Shuji Nomoto, Michitaka Fujiwara, Yasuhiro Kodera

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 8323

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) Reviewer 02860766

-Is there any role of lipase in the assessment of prognosis of pancreatic fistula?

Reply) Unfortunately, serum lipase level was not measured in a postoperative course.

(2) Reviewer 02860766

-What about the effects of DM, insulin resistance, dyslipidemia and hypercalcemia On the prognosis?

Reply) We thank the Reviewer for this thoughtful suggestion. As shown in Table 3, DM was not significantly related to incidence of clinically-relevant POPF. We routinely monitored blood-sugar level and maintained appropriate levels (usually, 70 mg/dl  $\leq$ , < 200 mg/dl) after surgery.

Descriptions of postoperative control of blood sugar were added in the Methods section. Our database does not have sufficient data of perioperative lipid levels. No patients included in this study had hypercalcemia postoperatively.

(3) Reviewer 02860766

-What about the role of imaging (US, MRCP) for assessment of pancreatic fistula?

Reply) Abdominal ultrasonography was performed as needed postoperatively. Percutaneous drainage or exchanging tubes was employed when signs of inadequate drainage were found. This content was added in the Methods section. In our institute, postoperative MRCP was not administered.

(4) Reviewer 00033012

-A bit more discussion about amylase level in the drain other known risk factors for development of POPF ( pluses and minuses of each factor) and the specific advantage of increase in CRP should a separate paragraph in the discussion.

Reply) A new paragraph for a discussion of pluses and minuses of each factor including drain amylase content and increase in CRP was added in the Discussion.

(5) Reviewer 00033012

-I would suggest the c following changes.

Reply) Thank you for your thoughtful comments. We adopted your suggestions (1-9) in full and

revised the text.

3 Languages and typesetting were corrected throughout the manuscript.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tsutomu Fujii', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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