

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your interest in considering a revised version of our manuscript.

Please find herewith enclosed a copy of our revised manuscript entitled “**Micronutrient deficiencies in patients with chronic atrophic autoimmune gastritis: a review**” following the amendments and changes as suggested by the reviewers (all the edits are reported in bold letters within the text). We hope the revised version will now be suitable for publication in “*World Journal of Gastroenterology*”.

Our point-to-point response to the Reviewer is with this letter.

We thank you for your continuing consideration and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

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Reviewer 1 - code: 00643577

Comments to the Author

This is a descriptive review of literature concerning micronutrient deficiencies in patients with chronic atrophic autoimmune gastritis. While deficiencies in vitamin B12 have been well established, this review addresses other nutrient deficiencies that should also be considered (Iron, vitamin C, calcium, vitamin D). Overall this is a very informative and well-written review. A few points are listed below that could be addressed or clarified to improve the clarity for readers.

Point 1: The statement is made that “Therefore, FUT6 SNP’s may explain the increased risk of developing gastric cancer in patients with CAAG and PA”. It is not clear how this statement fits in to the overall theme of micronutrient deficiencies. Furthermore, there are several factors that contribute to an individual’s risk of developing gastric cancer that are not mentioned (inflammatory genes, diet, genetics, etc.). This statement could be removed without any impact on the main focus of this review.

As reasonably suggested by the reviewer, we have removed the addressed sentence from the manuscript.

Point 2: In section 2.2 IRON, the authors refer to “APCA”. I’m not sure this is defined, although I know it is referring to anti-parietal cell antibodies. Defining this may help clarify for readers.

The definition of APCA has been provided as properly suggested by the reviewer.

Point 3: In section 2.3 VITAMIN C, the authors state that “...some population-based epidemiologic studies have showed negative correlations between the vitamin C uptake and gastric cancer...”. However, there are no references listed to support this statement. Listing these references will allow the readers to investigate those studies

The pertinent reference has been provided and included in reference list.

Reviewer 2 - code: 00928261

Comments to the Author

This is an interesting and well-written descriptive review which investigates the relevance, frequency and clinical presentation of nutritional deficiencies in chronic atrophic autoimmune gastritis. It includes not only the well established vitamin B12 and iron deficiencies, but also other nutrient deficiencies (vitamina C, calcium, vitamin D). Following just two points to be corrected. Minor revision:

Section 2.1 line 65: in this context, in which you don't discuss other gastric cancer risk factors, the sentence "Therefore, FUT6 SNPs may explain the increased risk of developing gastric cancer in patients with CAAG and PA,[36] although further studies are needed to confirm this hypothesis." might be misunderstood. I suggest you to remove it.

The sentence indicated by the reviewer has been removed as properly requested.

Section 2.2 line 23: please clarify the acronym 'APCA' (anti-parietal cell antibodies) because this is the first and only time you use it.

The acronym 'APCA' has been clarified as suggested.

Editor Comments

The text has been amended according to the Editor's suggestions and all the revisions made have been highlighted in the final version of the manuscript, in particular:

The EPS Manuscript number has been inserted,

In the affiliations the required postcode has been provided,

For the corresponding author just one address has been provided,

The sentence regarding supportive foundation has been delated,

The abstract has been amended as suggested and a sentence on the clinical manifestations of nutritional deficiencies in CAAG has been inserted and highlighted,

List of key words has been provided,

Copyright sentence has been inserted,

An Audio Core tip file has been provided as requested,

Authors abbreviated names and title has been inserted,

All the abbreviations used in the manuscript have been defined the first time they appear in the text,

Reference list has been checked for repeated references,

Finally, few stylistic amendements have been done throughout all the text and references.