

Dr Ze-Mao Gong
Editorial office
World Journal of Gastroenterology

Dear Dr Gong and reviewers,

Thank you for the time and effort you have taken to review our manuscript and for your comments. We have revised the article to address all your comments. A detailed description of this is given below.

1. **In a review article, I believe that the basis and origin of each description should be clear. In table 2. the addition of the reference number for every row is highly recommended.**

We have added a references row for Table 2 and added the reference number for the basis and origin of each description.

2. **And in table 2, the meaning of "?" is not clear whether the literature as an evidence is absent or some literatures exist but those results are not constant. Authors may explain the reason of "?" in footnote, for instance, with a dagger symbol.**

Thank you for pointing this out. We agree that this notation is confusing. We have therefore removed each of the statements with a "?" from Table 2 so a footnote is no longer required. We believe this has made the presented data easier to understand.

3. **Also in table 3, the meanings of "?" and "-" are equivocal whether each parameter has the data which are inconsistent or has the data which shows no effect or has no data simply. Authors can explain in detail.**

We have added a dagger symbol and footnote to explain the meaning of both "?" and "-" in this instance. The descriptions given are as follows:

(For use of "?") - The available literature suggests a slower initial response but comparable long-term response rate

**The use of "-" denotes an absence of published data addressing this issue*

4. **My only comment/suggestion is that the Authors may need to specify what exactly they mean by "clinical response", as this could be considered as improvement in symptoms only, or improvement in symptoms and laboratory indices (e.g. ESR, CRP, fecal calprotectin,.....).**

We have clarified this by adding the statement "For the purpose of this review, clinical response will consider symptom improvement only rather than an improvement in symptoms and laboratory

Abhinav Vasudevan

MBBS (Hon) MPH FRACP

GASTROENTEROLOGIST

Eastern Health

Department of Gastroenterology & Hepatology

ARNOLD STREET BOX HILL VIC 3128

Phone: +61 418 105 118

Facsimile: +61 3 9899 9137

indices.” This is the last sentence of the second last paragraph in the section “Defining Time to Clinical Response and Remission”.

By making the above changes we hope we have addressed all your queries. Thank you again for your reviews.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abhinav Vasudevan', on a light background.

Abhinav Vasudevan

First author of manuscript