

October 11, 2012

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: esps-243-revision.doc).

Title: Diversity of *Helicobacter pylori* genotypes in Iranian patients with different gastroduodenal disorders

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Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

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

A. Format has been updated and the manuscript was re checked for grammar and has reached Grade

B. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the **reviewer 1**:

Results section

The reviewer asked why the success rate was only 40%. Were other patients (60%) H.pylori-negative by other diagnostic tests? What was the rate of mixed infection ?

Answer: About the recovery rate we added the explanation to discussion section. About the rate of mixed infection: According to our findings, we had 6 isolates which had two different size of *cagA* simultaneously, that showed the mixed infection in these patients and we mentioned that in the manuscript.

Discussion section

(1)About *vacA* (i region): The most important regions of the *vacA* gene for genotyping are s and m regions which we analyzed completely. i region of *vacA* is a novel region which we will analyze in our future study.

(2)About the analysis of individual genes and combined genotypes: we deleted the sentence which leads to some kind of confusion as a reviewer mentioned.

(3) About the comparison of our results with the published data on Asian, European and American populations: we added more comparisons to the discussion section.

Tables and figures

(1) We revised the Table 2 as a reviewer mentioned.

(2) We merged Figure 2 and Figure 3 and revised them as a reviewer mentioned.

(3) We highlighted the genotype in Table 2 as a reviewer mentioned.

C. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the **reviewer 2**:

Major comments

1. The grade of gastritis was scored based on the updated Sydney System which we added to the revised manuscript.
2. We revised the table 2 which leads to some kind of confusion as a reviewer mentioned. Actually we have two patients who suffered from both gastritis and duodenitis, so because of that the sum of total was 73 instead of 71 which we revised it. There are **incomplete** pathologic data for 9 isolates (all of them are SACG) and it doesn't affect the rustles at all. We omitted this sentence which leads to some kind of confusion.
3. We examined the sweep isolates (isolates harvested with sweep in different points of the plate) per patient so our genotypes are the representative of the whole *H. pylori* population in that patient (we refer the reviewer to the article by Tomasini et al. entitled : Heterogeneity of *cag* Genotypes in *Helicobacter pylori* Isolates from Human Biopsy Specimens). By the way we had 6 isolates which had two different size of *cagA* simultaneously, that showed the mixed infection in these patients which we mentioned in the revised manuscript.

Minor comments

1. Number of patients participated in this study was added to "material and methods section" as a reviewer mentioned. Also we added the information of patients such as number, age (average) and sex to "Results section".
2. We analyzed the relationship between the age of the patients with clinical and pathological data, but there was no significant relationship between these variables, which we added to the revised manuscript.
3. Duodenitis was changed to "Duodenitis" in foot note of Table 2.

D. References and typesetting were corrected.

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

Sincerely yours,
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