

## ESPS Peer-review Report

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

**Ms:** 1326

**Title:** Neurotensin Receptor 1 (NTSR1) Overexpression in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD): Association with Mucosal Inflammation and Colitis-Associated Neoplasia

**Reviewer code:** 01429020

**Science editor:** l.jiang@wjgnet.com

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

## COMMENTS

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS:

The paper of Xianyong Gui et al investigates the relationship of Neurotensin Receptor 1 expression in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases and the possibility of its association with mucosal inflammation and colitis-associated neoplasia. They found a strong correlation with the progression from normal mucosa to colitis, degree of dysplasia and carcinoma. The interesting finding and the correct methodological approach lead to move only few remarks: 1. Abbreviations are not always followed by their full explanation as currently requested. 2. Statistical analysis was performed by Fisher's test. Since the compared groups were more than two (see table 2: negative, +1, +2 and +3) an analysis of variance could have been more appropriate. 3. It is unclear the site of NTSR1 expression: epithelium, stromal cells, lamina propria or all these locations? The method of its expression evaluation may be affected by this aspect. Indeed, the system of expression assessment which was used by the authors is almost unusual. A more accurate semiquantitative marker of a molecule in immunohistochemistry is the labeling index, i. e. the percentage of positive cells. The count of positive cells in intestinal specimens is performed on 10 well-oriented crypts for the epithelium and on randomized fields containing at least 1000 cells in the stroma. Is there a specific reason which induced the authors to avoid the use of conventional count methods? 4. Figure 1 A does not seem to be a haematoxylin-eosin staining. 5. NTSR1 was not expressed in all cases of colitis, dysplasia and cancer. Have the authors a hypothesis to explain the lack of expression in some inflammatory, pre-cancerous and cancerous lesions? This aspect could be a good topic for the Discussion.