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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 25399

Title: ROLE OF SEX HORMONES IN GASTROINTESTINAL MOTILITY IN PREGNANT AND NON-PREGNANT RATS.

Reviewer's code: 03475586

Reviewer's country: United States

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2016-03-08 21:40

Date reviewed: 2016-03-14 02:17

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	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"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors have attempted to determine changes in GI motility in rats during various phases of the reproductive cycle and pregnancy using non-invasive novel methods. It is important to recognize that this study is NOT a validation of these novel methods. That was done in prior studies already and this study uses these previously validated tools to study differences in motility. Therefore authors should refrain from statements like "ACB allows evaluating gastrointestinal contractility and transit in vivo, involving gut hormones, cytokines and an intact enteric nervous system". This conclusion cannot be drawn from the present study as no comparisons to gold standard testing were made. Also, the study only provides an "association" between hormone levels and GI motility. It does not provide any cause-effect relationship. Therefore, recommend re-phrasing the conclusion "High progesterone and low estradiol levels decreased the contraction frequency and slowed gastric emptying during pregnancy in vivo". In addition to the level of estrogen and progesterone, several other changes in the body may also be taking place in the same time which may also contribute to changes in GI motility. As a result a direct cause-effect relationship cannot be established from this



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observational study. Needs minor correction for English language. Overall, it is a well conducted study. Adds to existing knowledge about potential roles of sex hormones in GI motility. Clinical applicability/utility is limited at this time, though.