

Dear Dr. Lian-Sheng Ma, Science Editor, Company Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Office

Baishideng Publishing Group Inc

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA

We thank editors and the reviewer for reviewing our manuscript "COVID-pandemic and exacerbation of ulcerative colitis". We revised our manuscript according to the editor's recommendation based on the review report of reviewer 1. We believe our revised manuscript meet the standard for publication for World Journal of Clinical Cases. Besides, we believe the influence of COVID-19 pandemic on ulcerative colitis patients is of interest for doctors of IBD field as well as the patients. Thank you again.

Toshikuni Suda, MD., PhD.

A Division of Gastroenterology, Dokkyo Medical University Saitama Medical Center

Point by point response

1. First of all, the reviewer seemed to misunderstand our conclusion as the reviewer said in his review report that our study showed "COVID-19 has influenced countless lives, greatly restricting social and economic activities, and probably through psychological and physical stress." On the contrary, our conclusion is to show that the COVID-19 pandemic caused exacerbation of UC in UC patients, probably through psychological and physical stress, (Discussion, page 10, line 20-page 11, line 3) (Abstract conclusion page 3, line13-14) This misunderstanding may well be lead by the first sentence of abstract conclusion "COVID-19 had influenced countless lives, greatly restricting social and economic activities." Therefore, we delete this sentence to avoid misunderstanding.
2. Science editor pointed out that the introduction is too concise. According to this indication, we added the paragraph to the introduction. "H. Engler et

al. demonstrated the possibility of if neuroendocrine regulation of pro- and anti-inflammatory cytokine production such as IL-10 by peripheral blood immune cells may play roles in flares of UC patients. However, the underlying mechanisms of UC flare by stress remain unclear.”

3. The reviewer recommended that the value and innovation should be highlighted in Discussion. According to this recommendation, we added the phrase “which is new and had never been shown in the past.” (Page 10, line 22)
4. The reviewer 1 pointed out that picture quality is rough and Fig1 and 2 is not unified in format. According to this comments, we reformat the figures to refine.
5. The reviewer 1 pointed out that reference indexes are few. According to this comments, we added a reference in Introduction.