

## RESPONSES TO REVIEWERS' CONCERNS

March 20, 2013



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 1862-review.doc).

**Title: Green tea and the risk of gastric cancer: epidemiological evidence**

**Author: I-Chun Hou, Saral Amarnani, Mok T. Chong, Anupam Bishayee**

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO: 1862**

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers

**Reviewer (1) [Reviewer No. 00058448]**

Comment:

Dear Editor, This is an interesting article regarding risk of gastric cancer and green tea consumption. The authors provides detailed literature regarding this issue.

Response:

We sincerely thank the reviewer for the kind words.

**Reviewer (2) [Reviewer No. 00058744]**

Comment:

This is meta-analysis study about the effect of green tea against gastric cancer. The authors analyzed final 17 studies and they concluded that the data about the effect of green tea to gastric cancer prevention was insufficient for definite conclusion. English was well written. The meta-analysis structure was well established. And the conclusion was reasonable.

Response:

We are grateful to the reviewer for his/her appreciation regarding the quality of our work.

**Reviewer (3) [Reviewer No. 00183459]**

Comment:

This is a study aimed at assessing whether the consumption of green tea may have a protective role on the occurrence of gastric cancer. The manuscript is well written but there are some points needing to be clarified better. 1. At the moment, the main risk factor for gastric cancer is *H. pylori* infection. Therefore, the manuscript should be more focused on the interaction between *H. pylori* and green tea as well as the other known risk factors 2. Multivariate analysis on the effect of *H. pylori* infection sustained by CagA-positive strains, other risk factors and green tea consumption is the only way to demonstrate or exclude the association Based on those observations I would recommend to reject this manuscript with the possibility of resubmission after those issues have been fully addressed.

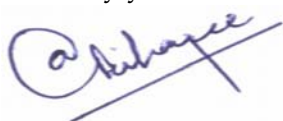
Response:

We sincerely believe that the reviewer had made an excellent point. Accordingly, we have added a section (last paragraph of the manuscript, pages 17 and 18, highlighted in yellow) focusing on interactions between *H. pylori* and green tea and cited appropriate references (references 48-54). We have also added a previously published cross-sectional study that showed a positive association between *H. pylori* infection and chronic atrophic gastritis (CAG), a precancerous lesion of the stomach. This study also reported a negative association between green tea consumption and risk of developing CAG. Interestingly, most of the epidemiological studies we have presented did not investigate the status of *H. pylori* infection, and we have highlighted this limitation in the concluding section (page 17; lines 16 and 17). The multivariate analysis on relationship among *H. pylori* infection sustained by CagA-positive strains, other risk factors and green tea consumption is outside the scope of our work as our review represents a systematic, comprehensive and critical analysis of epidemiological studies conducted and reported by other investigators. Nevertheless, future studies should consider incorporating this vital component suggested by the esteemed reviewer. The last line of our manuscript incorporates this important recommendation.

3 References and typesetting were corrected. We have added 7 new references (refs. 48-54).

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

Sincerely yours,



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