

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



August 14, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 2429-review.doc).

Title: Prevalence of *Helicobacter pylori* virulence genotypes among children in eastern Turkey

Author: Ozbey G, Dogan Y, Demiroren K

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 4321

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

1 Format has been updated according to editor's suggestions in ABSTRACT and COMMENTS.

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

(1) Reviewer no: 00058436 `The authors studied *Helicobacter pylori* isolates among children in Turkey for virulence genotypes. The authors studied *Helicobacter pylori* isolates among children in Turkey for virulence genotypes. They found that vacAs1m2 genotype was significantly associated with antral nodularity. The authors should define how antral nodularity was diagnosed accurately and its clinical significance`.

Answer: We thank the reviewer for the valuable comments. Antral nodularity was defined endoscopically characterized by an irregular appearance of the mucosa as a cobblestone pavement.

Statistical analysis was performed by statistical software program SPSS for Windows version 12.00 (SPSS, Chicago, IL, USA). The correlation between *H. pylori* genotypes and antral nodularity was assessed by Fischer's exact and χ^2 tests. *P* value less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant. We apologize for a clerical mistake (vacAs1m2 genotype was significantly associated with antral nodularity). We have changed as the sentence `vacAs1m2 genotype was not associated with antral nodularity`. We made minor revisions in language. We made revisions which marked red color in text.

(2) Reviewer no: 00505471 `It is a useful paper on a topic regarding which there is as yet little information from the Courtney. It will certainly add to knowledge on the issue.

Answer: We appreciate the reviewers' comments.

(3) Reviewer no: 00503464 `In this manuscript, the authors described the prevalence of *Helicobacter pylori* virulence genotypes among children in eastern Turkey. Comment 1) The aim of this study is not clear. Since every research is performed in order to improve human health, the aim of the study should be clearly stated. By clarifying the prevalence of *Helicobacter pylori* virulence genotypes among children in eastern Turkey, what kind of good things Reader can get? Please specifically describe the aim of this study. 2) Please describe the clinical appreciation of the result in this study`

Answer: We thank the reviewer for the valuable comments. 1) The aim of this study is to identify the virulence genotype if present in Turkish children and if those genotypes are mostly

associated to severe clinical presentations. Furthermore, the identification of virulence genotypes will be important for future policies for the eradication of *H. pylori* to prevent severe diseases in adults. 2) We feel that the clinical presentations observed in those children are not correlated with the presence of the virulence genotypes. We made corrections which marked red color in text.

3) References and typesetting were corrected and two references were supplemented.

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

Sincerely yours

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