

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

November 14, 2014



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: Answers_14146).

Title: Cholangiographic characteristics of common bile duct dilatation in children

Author: SH Oh, S Chang, HJ Kim, JM Cho, J Hwang, JM Namgung, DY Kim, Y Cho, CH Yoon, KM Kim

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 14146

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 reviewer

Reviewer # 2542038

Question: It would be interesting to know how many physicians were involved in calculating the SI. Was there any variability in the measurements between investigators? Two physicians measuring the SI and an average taken would make the data more robust in order to avoid bias.

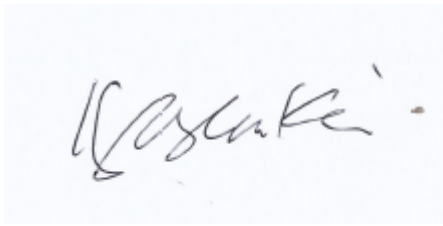
Answer: Thank you for your kind reviewing of the article. Based on the fact that there was always ample precedent for both significant interobserver variability beyond the correct measurement, measuring the diameter of CBD was done by two steps: a junior pediatric gastroenterologist (SH Oh) measured it first and those diameters were validated by senior pediatric gastroenterologist (KM Kim) and radiologists together in a meeting. To reduce 'intraobserver variability', the first reader measured three times and used average values of the diameter. However, efforts to reduce 'interobserver variability' was somewhat incomplete. In addition, the images of ERCP were not unmagnified during the measurements. However, we believe that the flushing pressure of contrast fluid and the technically difficult situations, such as difficult intubation of ampulla in some children, also affected the variability of the measured diameter. We will describe this in the METHOD.

Correction (Method page 7): To reduce intraobserver and interobserver variability, measuring the diameter was performed three times and average values of the diameter were used. These were validated by gastroenterologists and radiologists at the same institution.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,
Kyung Mo Kim

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Mo Kim', is centered within a light blue rectangular box.

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