

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



Fed 20, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 16142-review.doc).

Title: Abundance and Significance of Neuroligin-1 and Glutamate in Hirschsprung's disease

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 16142

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

(1) For the reviewer's comments about some grammar errors, we have revised them according to the suggestions.

① the term "have proved related..." has been revised.

② "affected by different psychological state" has been revised to "affected by different psychological states".

(2) For the comments of "It is unclear if the number of recruited patients was planned according to any sample size calculation" and "Also the choice of using as control group children with indirect inguinal hernia is poorly explained" we added the explanation in the "Patients" part as follows:

"From January 2010 to December 2013, more than 200 children with HSCR and 500 children with indirect inguinal hernia (IIH) were treated at the Department of Pediatric Surgery of Qilu Hospital at Shandong University. Experimental samples were collected from all of these patients, however, to reduce the influence of related effects during comparisons, only 90 patients with pathologically confirmed HSCR (HSCR group, 50 cases of short-segment HSCR and 40 cases of long-segment HSCR) and 50 patients with IIH (negative control or non-HSCR group) who were matched for nutritional status (serum total protein, serum albumin, hemoglobin, blood urea nitrogen, body length and weight), age and basal metabolic index (BMI) were included in this study (Table 1). IIH patients were selected as the non-HSCR group because IIH was the most common disease displaying normal intestine function that required pediatric surgery, thereby

facilitating participant recruitment and statistical analysis.”

(3) For the comments of “The goal of the study is not fully explained and remains unclear.” We added the explanation in the “Instruction” parts as follows:

“Therefore, the actual pathogenesis of HSCR and the mechanism underlying the loss of intestinal peristalsis in the distal diseased are unknown.”

“we sought to determine whether the pathogenesis of HSCR is related to abnormal excitatory signaling caused by alterations in the neuroligin-1 and Glu level and the relationship between them. Moreover, we sought to identify a new method to more effectively diagnose, differentially diagnose and classify HSCR in the clinic by measuring the serum Glu concentrations, which may be very valuable for clinical examinations.”

(4) For the comments of “The paper end up stating that future studies should be conducted without pointing out what should be inquired.” We added the explanation in the “Discussion” parts as follows:

“In the future, we will investigate the relationship between neuroligin-1 and neuroligin-2 and between Glu and GABA to examine the pathogenesis of HSCR from the perspective of abnormal synaptic development and will examine the value of a novel easy diagnostic method for HSCR based on the serum concentrations of Glu and GABA and their relationship..”

(5) We also revised the format of article according to the editors’ suggestions.

① The title was changed to “Abundance and Significance of Neuroligin-1 and Glutamate in Hirschsprung’s disease” (less than 10 words)

② The “Author contributions” and “Ethics approval” were revised as suggested. And “Data sharing” and “core tip” were added.

③ The “abstract” , “key words”, “Statistical analysis” “Tables”, “Figures” and “Figure legends” were revised as suggested.

④ “Comments” were added.

⑤ The language of article was revised and edited by American Journal Experts (AJME)

⑥ All the mainly revised points were marked as red words in the file names as “revisedarticle-marked-16142”.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

And if there are still something needed to be revised, please tell us and we will revise it again as soon

as possible.

Sincerely yours,

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