

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

February 26, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: WJG smd revision 2-25-15.doc).



Title: Low yield of routine duodenal biopsies for evaluation of abdominal pain

Author: Sterling M Dubin, Wilson T Kwong, Denise Kalmaz, Thomas J Savides

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 16541

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 No 227386

"In the Abstract under Methods and also in the Results section the authors need to make it clearer that the 183 patients with abdominal pain only are just a subgroup of the total of 300 patients and not a separate group."

Response: We have updated the methods and results sections so that it is clear that the 183 patients with abdominal pain without iron deficiency anemia, diarrhea, or weight loss are a subgroup of the entire 300 patient group.

"In the Discussion the first abbreviation ACG needs to be given its full title."

Response: The Discussion has been updated to use the full title of "American College of Gastroenterology" prior to introducing the abbreviation "ACG".

Reviewer No 3031150

"Dear Author, very interesting job with great casuistry. Main drawback remain the absence of assessment if abdominal pain improved as a result of identifying duodenal pathology during the follow up period."

Response: An addition to the Discussion section was added to acknowledge this limitation of the study. A limitation of this study is lack of follow-up to see if abdominal pain or other symptoms resolved after the procedure (either in the cases of discovered pathology or in the cases in which reassurance may have been gleaned from finding no pathology).

Reviewer No 253974

"How many biopsies per patient have been taken?"

Response: The mean number of duodenal biopsies taken was 4.3 per endoscopy and this information has been added to the Results section.

"Have all duodenal sectors been considered for biopsy, e.g. bulb, middle and lower duodenum?"

Response: In our study, duodenal biopsies were performed with standard technique using 2.8mm biopsy forceps generally from both the bulb and second portion of the duodenum. This information has been added to the Materials and Methods section.

"Have random samples been sent to a pathology reference service?"

Response: Histological assessment was performed by one of several board certified GI pathologists at the University of California San Diego, and at the pathologist's discretion any challenging cases or cases with pathology were also reviewed at a multidisciplinary pathology conference during which a consensus was determined. This information has been added to the Materials and Methods section.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

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