

Cover Letter

Date: 12th February 2023

The Editor,

World Journal of Gastroenterology

Dear Editors,

We are re-submitting our revised article entitled "Paediatric gastrointestinal endoscopy in the Asian-Pacific region: recent advances in diagnostic and therapeutic techniques" for consideration for publication as a *Review Article* in the journal, World Journal of Gastroenterology.

We summarise a point-by-point review of the comments and feedback made by the reviewers and editors. Our responses to the comments would be stated in italicised red text as shown below. The line numbers and page numbers are based on the revised manuscript autogenerated Microsoft Word document.



Yours Sincerely,

Corresponding author

James Guoxian HUANG (Author ID: 05205091)

POINT BY POINT RESPONSES

Reviewer #1:

1. The title reflects the main theme of the manuscript, although "future directions" is a part that was not delved into so much that it is mentioned in the title

Thank you – we have revised the title accordingly "Paediatric gastrointestinal endoscopy in the Asian-Pacific region: recent advances in diagnostic and therapeutic techniques" to better reflect the content and flow of the article.

2. The abstract summarizes the first part of the manuscript quite well, however it does not summarize the advances in diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy that are included in the review. I see the abstract as a statement of the problem that motivated the preparation of the paper rather than as a summary of the content. The

summary exposes more than necessary the problem of H. pylori infection and the usefulness of endoscopy in it.

Thank you – we have revised the entire abstract (Page 3 Line 43-75) accordingly to summarise all the key pointers within the manuscript.

3. Keywords do reflect the focus of the manuscript

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4. The manuscript describes very well the background, current status and importance of the review -

5. Does not apply 6. The review does achieve the objective of presenting the current situation of pediatric endoscopy in the region and this contributes to continue writing about it. 7. The scientific importance of the paper and their clinical relevance are mentioned and sufficiently discussed 8. Ok

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9. Does not apply 10. ok 11. Ok

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12. It is well organized. The Word “scarce or scarcely” is mentioned multiple times. In some of these times (when possible due to the context) this could be replaced by “low”.

We have rephrased accordingly and “scarce” is mentioned only once in page 7 line 178

At the beginning of the last big paragraph before the conclusions section it seems to me that there is a typing error, I paste it here: “Scientific societies recommended different competence threshold for lower and upper GI endoscopies. NASPGHAN,”

Thank you – we have rewritten this paragraph in Page 23 Line 636 as “... Different scientific societies recommend varying competency thresholds for lower and upper GI endoscopies.”

13. Does not apply 14. Does not apply Writing comments according to the three proposed criteria First: ---- Second: It is a paper with relevant information which proposes some new concepts such as “positive diagnostic yield” Third: This publication carries out an adequate and quite complete review of the current status of pediatric endoscopy in the region, providing precise numerical and statistical data and reflecting the need to reach consensus.

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Reviewer #2:

The article is within the scope of the journal and deals with an interesting topic. It is well written. reading is fluent The content is original and the results represent an advance in the area of knowledge. Several experimental cases are described.

Some article improvements:

a) Organize the article according to the standard structure: Introduction, Materials, Methods, Results, Discussion and Conclusions. b) A discussion section is especially important where the work presented is compared with other similar works, exposing its advances and limitations. *Thank you – we have kept the headings as they are, as these suggested headings are more appropriate for an Original Research article rather a Review Article (non Systematic Review)*

c) The conclusions should highlight the scientific contribution of the article.

Thank you – we have highlighted the originality and scientific contribution in the conclusions Line 669-673 Page 24 "... This is the first article to comprehensively review the evolving epidemiologic trends in paediatric GI endoscopy within Asia-Pacific, and delve into the future directions for paediatric endoscopy training and the advent of state of the art endoscopic techniques which are increasingly applied in the adult population."

d) The description of the state of the art should be improved

Thank you – we have included two sections on state of the art diagnostics and therapeutics . Page 13 to Page 14 line 341 – 393 "...State of the art Advanced endoscopic Diagnostic techniques ... especially in units with rotating trainees"

and Page 22 Line 610 to 626 "... State of the Art interventions for Therapeutic Endoscopy .. Peroral endoscopic myotomy in paediatrics .. achalasia"

6 EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

Authors must revise the manuscript according to the Editorial Office's comments and suggestions, which are listed below:

(1) Science editor:

The manuscript has been peer-reviewed, and it is ready for the first decision.

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Scientific Quality: Grade D (Fair)

(2) Company editor-in-chief:

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, the full text of the manuscript, the relevant ethics documents, and the English Language Certificate, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Gastroenterology, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for

its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors.

Before final acceptance, the author(s) must add a figure (medical imaging) to the manuscript. There are no restrictions on the figures (color, B/W).

We enclose two figures (endoscopy medical images) to be cited in the sections Haemostasis Line 479 Page 17 and Oesophageal dilation Line 553 Page 20

These two figures are :

Figure 1 – Endoscopy image of a haemostatic clip applied to a bleeding gastric antral ulcer

Figure 2 – Endoscopy image of balloon dilation in the oesophagus with a mucosal tear

Before final acceptance, when revising the manuscript, the author must supplement and improve the highlights of the latest cutting-edge research results, thereby further improving the content of the manuscript.

Thank you – we have included two sections on state of the art diagnostics and therapeutics . Page 13 to Page 14 line 341 – 393 “..State of the art Advanced endoscopic Diagnostic techniques ... especially in units with rotating trainees”

and Page 22 Line 610 to 626 “... State of the Art interventions for Therapeutic Endoscopy .. Peroral endoscopic myotomy in paediatrics .. achalasia”