

Response to reviewers' comments

Dear Editors and Reviewers,

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers' comments concerning our manuscript entitled «Early-onset gastrointestinal cancer: an epidemiological reality with great significance and implications». Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our research. We have studied comments carefully and have made corrections which we hope meet with approval. The process of change was highlighted with yellow color in the revised manuscript. The main corrections in the paper and the responses to the reviewer's comments are as follows:

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: The objective of the current Editorial by Triantafyllidis and his associates is to provide an overview of early-onset of gastrointestinal (GI) cancers and its implications. The current editorial describes the data gathered from epidemiological studies to provide significance and implications of early-onset of different GI cancers. The primary objective of this editorial, however, is to summarize the incidence and prevalence of many GI cancers shifting from older to younger generations, which is termed as 'early-onset cancer'. The authors propose some measures regarding the attitude of the scientific community to this alarming condition. The editorial is well-written but may require some editing in areas of articles and prepositions. In general, the current editorial provides some valuable information on early-onset of GI cancers, which would be beneficial to clinical investigators. **However, this information would be of great value if the authors provide some meaningful information about prevention and treatment of the early-onset of GI cancers.**

Response

A chapter related to the prevention and treatment of early GI cancer was added to the revised text

The authors state there has been a huge increase in GI cancers in several middle eastern countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar. **Could this in part be due to the large increase immigrant population in recent years?**

Response

Regarding this subject, we would not be able to find reports regarding the role of immigration flows in these countries. However, we refer to other factors reported in the relevant literature.

It would be useful if the authors discuss the rates of GI cancers between Arab and non-Arab populations in Middle Eastern countries.

Response

Unfortunately, we did not find data concerning the non-Arab populations of the Middle East. A special search was done for Israel. No relevant data were found.

The issue also arises for colon cancer in the USA, where African Americans are shown to have higher incidence of this cancer. It would be of interest to know *whether there also has been a shift in early-onset of colon cancer among the African Americans.*

Response

The data concerning black Americans are described in a special section.

The editorial will greatly benefit from a small write-up on *"future direction"* of research in this area.

Response

We added a special section regarding future direction.

ALL THESE MODIFICATIONS WERE MARKED IN YELLOW IN THE REVISED PAPER

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: Interesting manuscript. Current topic. Well organized manuscript. Multiple pieces of information that increase the knowledge of any reader and, above all, expert readers.

Answer

Thank you very much for your comments