

December 30, 2015

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Department of Epidemiology

Dr. Jin-Lei Wang
Director, Editorial Office
World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

RE: ESPS NO:23232, entitled "Clinical and epidemiologic variations of esophageal cancer in Tanzania"

Dear Dr. Wang:

Thank you for your letter dated December 13, 2015, regarding the above-referenced manuscript. We were pleased that the reviewers and the editor felt that this was an important study and we would like to thank them for their thoughtful and insightful critiques. The questions they raised were pertinent and have helped us to improve upon our earlier submission.

The attached pages detail our responses to the points raised by the reviewers. The reviewers' comments are listed in bold followed by our responses. All changes in the revised version of the manuscript have been highlighted.

We feel that the revised manuscript is much improved over the original and hope this study is now acceptable for publication in the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology.

Sincerely,



Amr S. Soliman, MD, PhD
Professor and Chair

Reviewer 1

Gabel and colleagues estimated the incidence of esophageal cancer in Tanzania and elucidated the clinical, epidemiologic and geographic distribution from medical records. Although data collection seems biased due to uneven accessibility depending on the regions, this study confirmed previous findings and also revealed difference in geographic distribution of esophageal carcinoma in this country. Authors are encouraged to show the location of ORCI in Figure 1 as well as scale bar.

We thank the reviewer for this comment and we agree that these are important points of information to add to the figure. The location of ORCI and a scale bar have been added to the revised version of Figure 1.

Reviewer 2

Abstract should not contain abbreviations without using the full word(s) once and defining. There are no other major revisions as far as the spelling and grammar of the publication are concerned. It is well written and contains a lot of interesting information, however its application is limited geographically and may not have great utility for a wide audience.

The abstract has been edited and the revised version of the manuscript does not contain abbreviations without prior definition.

Reviewer 3

Page 4, Line 7: In the Introduction session, the incidence of SCC is not always higher only in developing countries. Also in East Asia such as Japan and China, most of EC are classified in SCC.

We thank the reviewer for this point. We have revised the Introduction section and included references to support the notion that SCC rates are also high in East Asia.

The authors classified regions into 5 groups according to the incidence of EC. The characteristics and regional background of each group should be discussed more in the Discussion session.

We thank the reviewer for this comment. We have added to the Discussion section additional information about the characteristics and regional background of each of the 5 regions. We emphasized that there are no significant differences exist between the regions with respect to age and sex. However, detailed information and regional differences about lifestyle factors for esophageal cancer such as tobacco smoking, alcohol intake, and other possible risk factors are not available. We included that in the Discussion section and noted it as a limitation.

The incidence of EC cases of each group is not reliable because of the difference of distance and access to the hospital, life-style and living standard.

We agree with the reviewer and have included this point as a limitation of the study in the revised version of the Discussion.

The manuscript described only about distribution of EC patients in Tanzania. The authors should also examine and discuss the cause of EC such as smoking, alcohol consumption, customs and viral infections.

We thank the reviewer for this comments. We have added additional text in the revised version of the Discussion section to examine and discuss the etiology of EC.

Editor's Comments

Core tip. Please write a summary of less than 100 words to outline the most innovative and important arguments and core contents in your paper to attract readers.

We thank the editor for this point. We have added a core tip to the manuscript.
Please write the COMMENTS section at here. See the format in the Format.

We thank the editor for this comment. We have added the COMMENTS section to the manuscript according to the formatting instructions.
Add DOI and PMID and all authors to references.

We thank the editor for this point. All authors have been added to references as well as DOI

and PMID for available manuscripts.

