Author's response to reviews

Title: Increased proton pump inhibitor and NSAID exposure in irritable bowel syndrome: results from a case-control study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Maastricht, 3rd August 2012

Bo Shen MD
Section Head
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Dear Dr Shen,

We hereby submit the revised version of our manuscript entitled "Increased proton pump inhibitor and NSAID exposure in irritable bowel syndrome: results from a case-control study" for publication in the BMC Gastroenterology. We have altered the paper according to the suggestions and responded to the points raised by the Reviewers. Please find the respective responses and alterations detailed below, we hope that they will be found satisfactory.

Thank you for your kind assistance.
On behalf of the co-authors,
Yours sincerely,

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Points raised by Reviewer 1
We thank the reviewer for giving helpful suggestions.

We indeed agree with the reviewer that the representation of the data was somewhat unclear.

A multivariate analysis was performed as follows. First, only drug exposition was included to calculate crude ORs. Hereafter, the comorbidities (FD/GERD, RA, psychiatric, fibromyalgia) were included as confounders to calculate corrected ORs. Results of both analyses are now included in the table, along with ORs for the comorbidities. Hereafter, patients with the different comorbid conditions were excluded from analyses in order to further differentiate between the effects of the cofactors. In case of RA and fibromyalgia, no ORs could be calculated as none of the controls had any of these conditions, hence the indication ‘not applicable.’ Also, to reduce redundancy in data, table 2 has been merged with table 3.

Points raised by Reviewer 2
We once again thank the reviewer for reviewing our manuscript and giving us useful comments.