Author’s response to reviews

**Title:** Effectiveness of polaprezinc for low-dose aspirin-induced small-bowel mucosal injuries as evaluated by capsule endoscopy: a pilot randomized controlled study

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**Version:** 7 **Date:** 19 June 2013

**Author’s response to reviews:** see over
June 19, 2013

Dear Dr. Foote:

We thank you for the thorough review of our manuscript, “Effectiveness of polaprezinc for low-dose aspirin-induced small-bowel mucosal injuries as evaluated by capsule endoscopy: a pilot randomized controlled study,” which we submitted for publication as an Original Article (MS: 7491729588479121). We have taken all of the reviewers’ comments into account and have made adjustments to the text accordingly. We herein submit our revised manuscript. As you will see, the revisions are marked by single underlining.

We feel that our revisions are suitable in light of the reviewers’ comments, and we believe the revised paper is significantly improved over the paper we submitted initially. We hope that the revised version is now acceptable for publication in BMC Gastroenterology.

Please do not hesitate to let us know whether there are any further changes we should make to the manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

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Effectiveness of polaprezinc for low-dose aspirin-induced small-bowel mucosal injuries as evaluated by capsule endoscopy: a pilot randomized controlled study

Reviewers’ Comments and Our Replies (MS: 7491729588479121)

Reviewer Motohiro Esaki

Minor essential revisions

The reviewer still finds some grammatical errors in the revised manuscript.
P4, line 11. “polaprezinc is commonly used in the treatment ~” should be changed into “~commonly used for~.”
P6, line 9. “All patients screened for inclusion in the study provided written informed consent~” should be “All patients screened for inclusion in the study were provided~.”
P8 , line 4. “Another” should be changed into “any other.” The authors should carefully check their revised manuscript again.

Reply: In response to the reviewer’s comment, we have changed the sentences as follows:
From “polaprezinc is commonly used in the treatment of gastric ulcer.”
To “polaprezinc is commonly used for the treatment of gastric ulcer.” (P4, line 11)

From “All patients screened for inclusion in the study provided written informed consent for participation.”
To “All patients screened for inclusion in the study were provided written informed consent for participation.” (P6, line 9)

From “exclusion of Crohn’s disease, intestinal tuberculosis and another small bowel disease.”
To “exclusion of Crohn’s disease, intestinal tuberculosis and any other small bowel disease.” (P8, line 4)

Numbers of erosions/ulcers of both polaprezinc and control groups described in Table 1 are different from those in Figure 3. Which result is true?
**Reply:** We thank the reviewer for noting our error, which we have corrected. Figure 3 is true. We have changed results of Table 1 and Table 2 as follows:

**Table 1** Characteristics of patients with small-bowel mucosal injuries per study group (polaprezinc treatment and no polaprezinc treatment, i.e., control)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Polaprezinc (n=10)</th>
<th>Control (n=10)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio (male/female)</td>
<td>9/1</td>
<td>7/3</td>
<td>N.S.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years); median (range)</td>
<td>78.5 (64-82)</td>
<td>75.5 (62-86)</td>
<td>N.S.**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemoglobin concentration (g/dL); median (range)</td>
<td>13.6 (10.2-15.3)</td>
<td>13.7 (8-15)</td>
<td>N.S.**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indication for low-dose aspirin therapy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valvular heart disease</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>N.S.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of low-dose aspirin (months); median (range)</td>
<td>64.5 (24-120)</td>
<td>48 (36-120)</td>
<td>N.S.**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-ulcer drug</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2 blocker</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>N.S.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPI</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial CE findings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median number of erosions/ulcers (range)</td>
<td>2 (0-6)</td>
<td>2 (0-10)</td>
<td>N.S.**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median number of reddened lesions (range)</td>
<td>3 (0-7)</td>
<td>2 (0-7)</td>
<td>N.S.**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE score</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median score (range)</td>
<td>180 (0-450)</td>
<td>225 (0-225)</td>
<td>N.S.**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE score by category</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal or clinically insignificant change (&lt;135)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild change (≥135 and &lt;790)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>N.S.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate or severe change (≥790)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of patients are shown unless otherwise indicated.

*by Fisher’s exact test   **by Wilcoxon test

Abbreviations: CE, capsule endoscopy; PPI, proton pump inhibitor; N.S., not significant

**Table 2** Number of small-bowel mucosal injuries and CE scores upon initial and follow-up CE in the
polaprezinc treatment group and non-polaprezinc (control) group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Initial CE</th>
<th>Follow-up CE</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Polaprezinc group (n=10)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median number of erosions/ulcers (range)</td>
<td>2 (0-6)</td>
<td>0 (0-4)</td>
<td>0.039*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median number of reddened lesions (range)</td>
<td>3 (0-7)</td>
<td>1 (0-1)</td>
<td>0.003*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median CE score (range)</td>
<td>180 (0-450)</td>
<td>0 (0-225)</td>
<td>N.S.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE score by category</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal or clinical insignificant change (&lt;135)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild change (≥135 and &lt;790)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>N.S.**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate or severe change (≥790)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Control group (n=10)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median number of erosions/ulcers (range)</td>
<td>2 (0-10)</td>
<td>0 (0-9)</td>
<td>N.S.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median number of reddened lesions (range)</td>
<td>2 (0-7)</td>
<td>2 (0-7)</td>
<td>N.S.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median CE score (range)</td>
<td>225 (0-225)</td>
<td>0 (0-450)</td>
<td>N.S.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE score by category</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal or clinically insignificant change (&lt;135)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild change (≥135 and &lt;790)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>N.S.**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate or severe change (≥790)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: CE, capsule endoscopy; N.S., not significant.
*by Wilcoxon signed-rank test  **by Fisher’s exact test

*The description of references No 8, 22, and 29 should be concordantly described*

**Reply:** We thank the reviewer for noting our error, which we have corrected. We changed the description of references as follows:

