Author's response to reviews

Title: Combined use of AFP, CEA, CA125 and CA19-9 improves the sensitivity for the diagnosis of gastric cancer

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Reviewer 1 Comments
In this manuscript the authors aimed to determine whether the combined use of AFP, CEA, CA125 and CA19-9 tumor markers may increase the sensitivity for the diagnosis of gastric cancer. The sample size of 149 patients with gastric cancer, 111 patients with benign gastric disease and 124 healthy people is reasonable and reliable. The statistical analysis methods are appropriate. The results are good and suggest that the optimal application of these common tumor markers could improve the clinical screening and diagnosis of gastric cancer. Generally speaking, this is a well-written manuscript and should be of interest to readers of BMC Gastroenterology.

I only have some concern about the Tables. There are some incorrect characters, please correct them.

Thanks for your attention. We have formatted the Tables.

Reviewer 2 Comments:
In this study the authors investigated the significance of combined use of tumor markers for the diagnosis of gastric cancer. The study design seems good and the sample size is acceptable. I wonder why the authors selected AFP, CEA, CA125 and CA19-9 four markers. Would the authors justify their choice and provide the rational? In addition, the manuscript need proofread by native English speaker.

Good point. We have added more information on the rationale to select AFP, CEA, CA125 and CA19-9 four markers (please see Introduction). In addition, we have asked native English speaker to proofread the manuscript as you suggested.
Editorial Board Comments:
In their manuscript the authors showed that the use of several tumor markers may increase the sensitivity for the diagnosis of gastric cancer. The results of the manuscript are interesting and suggest that those results may improve the clinical screening for gastric cancer.
We appreciate your positive comments.

However, in its current form the manuscript is not suitable for publication. There are minor revisions that need to be corrected before publication.
- What was the rationale to use the selected tumor markers? Please include this point in the discussion.
We have added more information on the rationale to select AFP, CEA, CA125 and CA19-9 four markers (please see Introduction).

- In the tables, there are some incorrect characters which need to be corrected.
We have formatted the Tables to correct the characters.

- The quality of the manuscript would improve if a native English speaker would correct it
Good suggestion. We have asked native English speaker to proofread the manuscript.