Author's response to reviews

Title: Hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) in fecal samples: rapid detection by surface plasmon resonance

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Version: 2 Date: 18 January 2005

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir

We are grateful for your consideration of this manuscript for publication in your journal. The reviewers had suggested wise changes that we have tried to perform as follows.

Reviewer: Professor Wen W.G. Jiang

Thanks for your kind suggestions. This manuscript was actually meant to describe a new method for detection of HGF.

1- The size of the sample numbers in patients with infectious gastroenteritis has increased to 20 patients and in group healthy control to 10.

2- As we have described the patients with infectious gastroenteritis were chosen between patients with untreated diarrhoea who had positive faeces cultures. One patient in this group had negative faeces culture but had diarrhoea, fever and a family member with diarrhoea and positive faeces cultures for Campylobacter jejuni. No other criteria were needed for inclusion. Some biopsies were not performed in this group.

3- This study was not supposed to describe HGF presence in patients with colon cancer. We had included this group just to show that presence of blood in faeces could not increase the faeces HGF levels. We admit that the number of patients with colon cancer and the criteria for diagnosis was not good. This group is omitted now.

4- We hope that we have found out and changed the term that was used wrong.

Reviewer 2:

1- As mentioned we have increased the number of patients and healthy control.

2- The statistical technique is mentioned now. Please see the results.

3- After adding the number of patients and controls, a new regression curve is arranged. Figure 3 is changed.

4- The patients with colon cancer are omitted from the study now.

5- It is true but the problem is that the correlation between ELISA and SPR that was mentioned in 70 samples in Discussion was studied in the patients with another bowel disease (inflammatory bowel disease). So we could not include these patients in the same study. However the correlation between HGF levels determined by ELISA and SPR was high. Now after adding the number of patients we have the same significance. Therefore we have omitted this part from Discussion.