Author's response to reviews

Title: Pancreatic hyperamylasemia during acute gastroenteritis: incidence and clinical relevance

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Version: 5 Date: 25 Jul 2001

Modification according to the referees comments

Response to Dr. Castagliuolo

1) We agree with the referee that the last paragraph is confusing. We have reformulated it and we think that in the new version the manuscript is more clear

2) According to the last comments the results section, line 1-5 and 8-11 of the original version have been modified (we made the sentences shorter)

Response to Dr. Generoso

1) The paper has been modified according to the referee. In particular, the definition of acute pancreatitis reported as Atlanta classification and published by Bradley EL in Arch Surg 1993;128:586-590 has been used and reported both in the introduction and in the references. According to these criteria, only one case of hyperamylasemia had acute pancreatitis, and, therefore, the results have been changed.

2) As requested by Dr Generoso we have specified that CT scan was performed with contrast enhancement and that a diagnosis of oedematous pancreatitis was made. The characteristics of ultrasound findings in two other patients with hyperamylasemia over 4 times the normal range have been further specified in the clinical aspect section.

3) The characteristics of abdominal pain in patients with and without hyperamylasemia have been included in the results section. As reported in the original version all patients recovered (clinical aspects) and the serum amylase testing was performed at admission and at least two times thereafter (material and methods). Furthermore no differences were found between patients with and without hyperamylasemia in term of cholesterol ALP, ALT, TG and bilirubin
4) According with Dr. Generoso, we have discussed the possibility that hyperamylasemia could represent an epiphenomena of a "biliary colic" in patients with gallbladder and dehydration.

Minor comments:

1) The title of the manuscript has been change introducing Pancreatic before hyperamylasemia
2) We didn't found any difference in term of cholesterol and TG between patients with and without hyperamylasemia and we have reported these findings in the results section.