Author's response to reviews

Title: Lack of association between gene polymorphisms of Angiotensin converting enzyme, Nod-like receptor 1, Toll-like receptor 4, FAS/FASL and the presence of Helicobacter pylori-induced premalignant gastric lesions and gastric cancer in Caucasians.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Guian Paolo Declaro,

attached you find the revised manuscript with the title "Lack of association between gene polymorphisms of Angiotensin converting enzyme, *Nod-like receptor 1*, *Toll-like receptor 4*, *FAS/FASL* and the presence of *Helicobacter pylori*-induced premalignant gastric lesions and gastric cancer in Caucasians".

The manuscript was revised based on the points of criticisms raised by you and the reviewer.

The following changes (all marked by yellow background) were made in detail:

Consent: As you may be aware, it is our policy to request proof of all patients' written, signed consent for publication of their clinical details and any relevant images. In compliance with this policy, please provide us with a copy of any consent form signed by the patient (or their relative), preferably by email. Please do not upload consent forms online via the manuscript submission pages.
Relevant consent forms were sent by Email to the editorial office. In case, colleagues submitted completed “informed consent forms”, personal information was “blackened” to ensure patient’s anonymity. Furthermore, the approval of “informed consent” is now included in the section “Material and methods” of the manuscript.

Title page: This should contain; Title, Author list, Affiliations (department names, institution name, street name, city, zip code, country), email addresses. The author list and email addresses must be identical in the manuscript file and on the submission system, and it must be clear which affiliation pertains to each author. The title page should contain the following: article title, authors' names, affiliations, corresponding author information? list of email addresses for all authors - kindly include this on your current manuscript title page

All corrections were done.

Abstract: Please ensure that the abstract in the manuscript file and on the submission system is identical.

Was checked and corrected, and adjusted the manuscript in accordance to the guidelines of BMC Med. Genet.

NOTE: Keywords are not required for BMC-series journals.

Keywords were deleted.

Response to Reviewer's 1 report:

Minor essential revisions

1. In the present dataset, there was no difference in H. pylori positivity among GC, HRAG, and controls. The possible explanation will be helpful for readers to interpret the findings.

The following paragraph was added in the discussion section (page 14-15)

In this study there was no difference in H. pylori positivity among GC, HRAG and control groups. The possible explanation for these findings could be higher prevalence of H. pylori in Baltic countries, when compared to Germany. HRAG and control groups were selected both in Germany and Baltic countries, while GC subjects were recruited only in the German centre, thus possibly affected the H. pylori status within the groups.

2. In Statistical analysis, there is no explanation on the adjustment for potential confounding factors in logistic analysis. If any factors were not adjusted, please mention it in the text or in the footnote of Tables.
The information was added to the section “Statistical analysis”.

The ORs presented in the study were not adjusted for confounding factors.

We are thankful for the reviewers’ and your comments and hope that the minor changes included allow you to accept the manuscript finally.

Sincerely Yours,

Dr. Thomas Wex