Author's response to reviews

Title: A risk assessment instrument to identify ulcerative colitis patients at high risk of non-adherence to aminosalicylate medication based on the Health Belief Model: a cross-sectional study

Authors:

Aki Kawakami (akikawakami-tyk@umin.ac.jp)
Makoto Tanaka (hmakoto-tyk@umin.ac.jp)
Masakazu Nishigaki (nishiqa-tyk@umin.ac.jp)
Naoki Yoshimura (ynaokun@yahoo.co.jp)
Ryoichi Suzuki (kannaisuzuki@muse.ocn.ne.jp)
Shin Maeda (smaeda@med.yokohama-cu.ac.jp)
Reiko Kunisaki (reikok@urahp.yokohama-cu.ac.jp)
Noriko Yamamoto-Mitani (noriko-tyk@umin.ac.jp)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
On behalf of all the authors, I would like to ask you to consider our manuscript titled “A risk assessment instrument to identify ulcerative colitis patients at high risk of non-adherence to aminosalicylate medication based on the Health Belief Model: a cross-sectional study” for publication in the *BMC Gastroenterology* as an original research article.

We used a multicenter cross-sectional study to develop an assessment instrument to identify patients with ulcerative colitis at high risk of non-adherence to aminosalicylates and to assess factors of non-adherence based on the Health Belief Model (HBM). The HBM is a theoretical model that could offer a broader perspective to improve patients’ self-medication adherence. The benefits of the instrument are two-fold: it helps identify patients at high risk of non-adherence, and it provides a specific perspective for assessing patients’ beliefs about taking medication. In real clinical settings, it is often difficult to learn about each patient’s non-adherence or beliefs about taking medication.

Our instrument had acceptable accuracy in detecting non-adherence. By using the instrument, we can distinguish patients who need their healthcare providers’ support preferentially, and simultaneously assess their beliefs for taking aminosalicylates. We believe the tool will provide clinically relevant information to encourage medication-taking behavior and thus suppress ulcerative colitis relapse. We feel that findings from this study will be of special interest to the readers of the *BMC Gastroenterology*.

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Foundation grant, Tokyo, Japan to Aki Kawakami. The authors report no conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

Aki Kawakami
Department of Gastroenterology
Yokohama City University Graduate School of Medicine
3-9 Fukuura Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama 236-0004, Japan
Tel: +81-45-787-2326 Fax: +81-45-787-2327
E-mail: akikawakami-tky@umin.ac.jp