Author’s response to reviews

Title: The potential value of serum pepsinogen for the diagnosis of atrophic gastritis among the health check-up populations in China: a diagnostic clinical research

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Response to Editors' comments

Dear Dr. Megan Haran

We are very grateful for your feedback regarding our manuscript entitled “The potential value of serum pepsinogen for the diagnosis of atrophic gastritis among the health check-up populations in China: a diagnostic clinical research”.

Please find below a point by point response to all comments.

We hope that this new very will be suitable for publication in your renowned journal. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information regarding this manuscript.
Best wishes,

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Editor Comments:

1. We recommend presenting the Background section of your abstract as a full sentence.
   We revised the Background section as a full sentence (Background section, line 29, page 2).

2. In your Ethics approval section of the Declarations, please include the full name of the ethics committee (including hospital name).
   We added the full name of the ethics committee in our Ethics approval section (Ethics approval and consent to participate section, line 313, page 15).

3. Please also indicate in your Ethics approval section whether consent obtained from patients was written or verbal.
   Written informed consent was obtained from all the patients included in this study (Ethics approval and consent to participate section, line 315, page 15).
4. Please note the Availability of data and materials section should describe where the raw data generated/analysed during your study can be found (including information found in any supplementary files or repositories). Therefore, "Not applicable" is not a sufficient statement in this case.

We encourage authors to ensure that their datasets are either deposited in publicly available repositories (where available and appropriate) or presented in the main manuscript or additional supporting files whenever possible. If you do not wish to share your data, please state this along with the reason, for example ethics or patient confidentiality.

For further information please see the following page: http://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#availability+of+data+and+materials

Our datasets are presented in the additional supporting file (spreadsheets file name: raw data in PG study) . Availability of data and material Declarations was revised (Availability of data and material section, line 320, page 15).

5. Please provide more justification for the contributions of authors YL Wu and ZY Song, as currently their contributions do not automatically qualify for authorship. Please amend your manuscript accordingly.

According to the ICMJE guidelines, to qualify as an author one should have:

- made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data;

- been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content;

- given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content; and

- agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not usually justify authorship.
We described the contributions of authors YL Wu and ZY Song in detailed (Author’s contribution section, line 328, page 15)

6. In your Authors' contributions section, please refer to the authors by their initials only. For example, YT, YW, etc.

We amended it on request (Author’s contributions section, line 328, page 15)

7. We notice there is funding information provided in Funding and the Acknowledgements, but they state different funding sources. Please clarify, and be sure to place any funding information in the Funding section.

The first author, YL Tong was the head of the research supported by this funding. The funding research is to study the Autophagy of Gastric Cancer Cell Mediated by Wnt/β-catenin signaling pathway. In the funding research we would also analyzed the signaling pathway in gastric cancer cell, atrophic gastritis cell and the controls. And some samples were acquired in the research of this article, the atrophic gastritis cell, for example. The funding supplied some material cost and labor cost.

8. Please remove all tracked changes from your manuscript and submit only a single clean copy.

We removed all tracked changes from our manuscript and submitted the clean copy.