Author’s response to reviews

Title: Increased risk of aspirin-induced gastric mucosal erosion in elderly Chinese men harboring SLCO1B1*1b/*1b while using aspirin and an ACEI or ARB concomitantly

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editor:

We thank your helpful comments and have revised the manuscript accordingly. All the changes are marked in yellow color in the revised manuscript.

1. Suggest that the title of the manuscript be changed more concisely and clearly, such as “Increased risk of aspirin-induced gastric mucosal erosion in the male Chinese elderly harboring SLCO1B1*1b”, and just like this.

Author’s response:
According the conclusion of article we changed the title into “Increased risk of aspirin-induced gastric mucosal erosion in male Chinese elderly patients harboring SLCO1B1*1b”.

2. In the Abstract section: line 32, “taking aspirin long-term” should be changed to “long-term use of aspirin”. All terms for any abbreviations, such as angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (ACEIs), angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) and more, should appear in lower cases for the first letter of each word, in particular those in the Abbreviations section, except for at the beginning of a sentence. In addition, “senior” should be changed to “elderly”, “transportation” to “transport”, “the normal group” to “controls” and more. Please note that there should be ONE space between two words or between a punctuation mark and a word to follow. Please follow this rule throughout the whole manuscript. In line 53, “polymerase chain reaction (PCR)” should be changed to “TaqMan assay”.

Author’s response:
We thank the Editor for his comments. We had already corrected these details and all changes to the
manuscript were indicated in the text by highlighting.
3. The heading “Background” (in line 22, after “Keywords”) should be changed to “Introduction”.
Please note that the whole manuscript should be presented with pagination.
Author’s response:
We had changed the “Background” into “Introduction” and added the pagination in the top right-hand
corner of the paper.
4. In the genotyping paragraph, there was Chinese format at the end of primer sequences.
Author’s response:
We apologized for our negligences and had corrected these mistakes.
5. In the Results section, data presented in Tables 1-4 should not be repeated in the text, such as
age, SCr, eGFR, and more.
Author’s response:
We had deleted the duplicate contents.
6. In the first paragraph of the Discussion section, should add corresponding citations/refs for the
ARRIVE trial and three other studies published by the NEJM, respectively. More importantly, the first
paragraph of the Discussion section should be used to present the new findings and further emphasize
their significance or importance in relevant studies. In addition, similar studies were done by Shiotani A
et al. several years ago. What are the similarities and differences in the findings between his and yours?
Author’s response:
We greatly appreciate the editor for these suggestions. The references of the ARRIVE trial [7] and three
other studies published by the NEJM [9-11], the significance of our conclusion and the similarities
and differences between ours and similar studies were already added in the first and second paragraphs
of the Discussion section by highlighting.
7. In the References section, each reference should follow the style and format as required by the
Journal, in particular, the title of the article, abbreviated name of the journal, and their lower or upper
case.
Author’s response:
Thank you for your reminder. I carefully checked all references follow the style and format as required
by the journal and corrected the wrong references.
8. In all Tables, grouping “Normal” and “Gastric erosion” should be changed to “Control” and
“Case”, respectively. Please add “Data are presented as mean ± SD, or n (%), as appropriate.” as the
footnote for Table 1, and delete “(SD)” from each row at the left column in Table 1. Please note that
there SHOULD be ONE space in between for any word and another word or a punctuation mark, in
particular for the Abbreviations section. Please use parenthesis in English to replace ones in Chinese.
Please keep in mind that it is a manuscript written in English, not in Chinese!
Author’s response:
We apologized for our negligences and had corrected relevant contents in all Tables according to your
request.
9. In Table 1, please add the data, n (%), on use of ACEIs, ARBs, or statins for control and case
groups, respectively; add the unit for BMI; make the unit (L, not l) consistent throughout the whole
manuscript. Please delete “(co-treatment of ACEI or ARB)” from the title of each table. Why did you
want to add a variable for Age >75 years? Please delete it. Change “Mean age year” to “Age, yrs”.
What were cerebrovascular diseases, stroke, TIA, or others? “Helicobacter pylori” should be changed
to “H. pylori-positive”.
Author’s response:
We had added the data on use of ACEIs or ARBs and statins for control and case groups and corrected
relevant contents in Table 1 according to your request. We also added the definition of cerebrovascular
disease in the clinical data collection section.
10. In Table 2, should add allele frequency of each SNP for control and case group, determining whether there could be a significant difference in the allele distributions of each SNP between the two groups.

Author’s response:
We greatly appreciate the editor for this suggestion. We indicated allele frequency of each SNP for control and case group in Table 2 and found the frequency of allele T was significantly higher in case group which was consistent with the result of TT genotype.

11. Similarly, should add allele frequency of each compound SNP (such as *1a, *1b, *5, and *15) for control and case group in Table 3. In Table 3, “haplotype” should be changed to “diplotype”. In addition, based on the definition of haplotype or diplotype (such as 388-521/388-521), all assigned diplotypes were incorrect. The compound allele should be assigned as AT/AT, GT/GT, GC/GC, AT/GT, AC/GT, GC/GT, and AC/GC, respectively. Please use “Diplotype” to replace “Homozygote and heterozygote” at the top left column of Table 3. Please provide the nomenclature of diplotype assignment and its literature for the readers.

Author’s response:
Thank you for these suggestions. We added a new table (Table 3) in order to display haplotypes of SLCO1B1 (such as *1a, *1b, *5, and *15) for control and case group and adjusted original table 3 into table 4. Additionally, we indicated the nomenclature of diplotype assignment in the text and its literature [19] by highlighting.

12. In Table 4, “Mean age year” should be changed to “Age, yrs”. Delete “Gastric erosion” from the top left column in the table.

Author’s response:
I had corrected relevant contents in Table 5 by highlighting.

13. Current English editing service authors asked was not qualified, and thus further English editing service is still needed to improve its language quality. In addition, please strictly follow the format and style of the Journal as well as English grammar and ask a professional colleague to critically read the whole revised manuscript before uploading it.

Author’s response:
We strictly followed the format and style of the Journal and edited the language using another professional language editing service AJE (F045-BFC9-2959-096C-1187).