

Dear Editors in Chief of World Journal of Gastroenterology;

Attached is our revised manuscript entitled “Irritable bowel syndrome evaluation using CT colonography.” (ESPS manuscript NO: 28409)

We would be grateful if the manuscript could be reviewed and considered for publication in World Journal of Gastroenterology.

Following the specific reviews of the reviewers, we revised and rewrote. Our responses to each of the reviewers are in the following pages.

I am looking forward to your favorable reply.

Best regards,

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Reviewer's comments

1) The authors imply in their conclusion that the morphologic differences are somehow causative of their disorders. Animal models have demonstrated that chronic withholding or forced constipation causes lengthening or dilation of the colon; could it be that these patients had normal morphology prior to onset of symptoms but now have developed lengthened and dilated colons?

Reply: Thank you for your important comments.

Heredia et al also reported in animal study that partial outlet obstruction caused an elongated impacted large bowel, slowed transit. In human, slow colonic transit occurs in patients with chronic constipation and is known as slow transit constipation. Southwell reported that many patients with STC have an elongated transverse colon and elongated colon often occurs in patients with constipation. Yik et al reported that transverse colon elongation is more common whereas sigmoid colon elongation is not more common in anorectal retention and colonic elongation may be the cause or the result of the underlying slow transit.” We added that in Discussion section on page 12, line 8-16.

2) The Rome criteria were developed as a method to diagnose functional digestive disorders without the need to subject the patient to invasive, expensive tests or procedures. If a patient meets criteria for IBS-C or D or FC, they should not require colonoscopy or CTC to evaluate the colonic morphology or mucosa.

Reply: Thank you for your important comments.

We added review's comment in Discussion section on page 10, line 15-21.