

December 22, 2019

Ze-Mao Gong

Science Editor, Editorial Office

World Journal of Gastroenterology

ID: 03714121

Re: Revision of mini-review article entitled "Oesophageal atresia: The growth gap"

Dear Professor Gong,

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our manuscript entitled "Oesophageal atresia: The growth gap". We greatly appreciate the detailed and useful comments and suggestions of your reviewers, which we have carefully addressed below.

Reviewer #1

This manuscript provides an extensive review of Oesophageal Atresia (OA) and the reasons why the children affected by this condition exhibit poor growth, and difficulties with swallowing and speech. Moreover, this review explores the impact of diet on the children with OA and the role of microbiota, and provides some directions towards an effective interventions to maximize growth and nutritional outcomes. Considering limited research in the area of OA, this review provides much needed guidance towards the implementation of appropriate interventions to optimize growth and developmental outcomes of children with repaired OA.

Response: Thank you for your comment.

Reviewer #2

This work proposes an extensive review on the prevalence of and factors associated with growth impairment in children with OA, , and suggests areas for future research in this field. The paper offers an interesting analysis and their innovation and findings are well emphasized.

Response: Thank you for your comment.

Reviewer #3

In this study, the authors reviewed oesophageal atresia:the growth gap. Some problems existed. 1. INTRODUCTION: In THIS SECTION, the authors should give the brief introduction of the five types of OA so that the authors will have a brief idea of these types because later the authors will deal with these types once more. However, in this section, the authors just briefly mentioned type C neglecting the other four types.

Response: Thank you for your detailed comments, we believe they have greatly improved our review. In response to the first point, each type of OA (type A to E) has been introduced in the INTRODUCTION section.

2. What does WFH mean in the section of PREVALENCE OF POOR GROWTH IN OA. When using an abbreviation, the full phrase has to be given at the first time of use. Later you can always use the abbreviation without mentioning the full phrase. Please check the whole article and correct all similar issues of abbreviation usage. Later, I found that the authors give the full phrase of WFH in the surgical factors section. This is not correct. Moreover, the HFA and its full phrase were used twice. Please check. In this section, the authors mentioned type C and other types of OA. However, the reader still do not understand other types. That is why you have introduce all the types in the INTRODUCTION section.

Response: Abbreviations have been corrected. The full phrase of WFH and HFA have been given at first usage and the second usage of the full phrase of HFA has been deleted. As mentioned above, all types of OA have been introduced at the start.

3. Citation: When citing others' work, please be careful. The authors used Puntis et al was the only study to. This is not correct. Puntis et al are a group of authors rather than a study. You should write like this: The study by Puntis et al was the only one to ---. Other examples are "Baired et al was the first study". This is not correct. Please check the whole article and correct all similar issues. Also, the authors used "both Menzies et al and Vergouwe et al observed". Both means two, however, here there are a lot more authors. The authors probably mean both studies by Menzies et al and Vergouwe et al observed. Please check.

Response: All citations have been reviewed and corrected when necessary. All instances of '(author) et al was the first study to' have been changed to 'the study by (author) et al was the first to'.

4. Table 1 is too big and too complex. Please shorten and simplify it.

Response: The headings and columns in Table 1 have been shortened. Only the key positive findings have been included under the heading 'significant findings'.

Thank you again for the opportunity to revise our manuscript. We hope that this mini-review is now acceptable for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely,

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