

October 2014

Dear editors

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript. We appreciate your suggestions and are pleased to inform you that we are ready to resubmit our revised manuscript, taking into account the reviewer's comments. All changes in the manuscript were manually highlighted in yellow.

Thank you again for your kind review. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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Title: Significant risk and associated factors of active tuberculosis infection in Korean patients with inflammatory bowel disease using anti-TNF agents

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Reviewer 1

1) The authors should recommend that doctors cannot use anti-TNF agents for patients with positive LTBI test. Because the patients with positive LTBI test have high risk of TB and it is difficult to prevent developing active TB by chemoprophylaxis in the study. The authors should be discussed in this point.

Answer: Thank you for your crucial comment which would be one of the important messages of the study. However, it might be too early to reach that conclusion considering the seriousness of complications which may result from the progressed disease itself. Guidelines recommend delaying to begin anti-TNF for at least 3 weeks when LTBI is confirmed (*Journal of Crohn's & colitis* 2009; **3**(2): 47-91). Anti-TNF agents can be started early in some inevitable cases for disease control. Therefore, we should consider seriously undertaking the balance between the risk and the benefit before initiating anti-TNF agents in Korean IBD patients with positive result for LTBI. If anti-TNF is used in these patients, more strict and complete anti-TB prophylaxis measures should be followed by rigorous monitoring for the development of active TB. We described this in Discussion page 13.

2) Significant digits should be reconsidered throughout the manuscript. Ex 32.50 ± 13.04 years should be changed to 32.5 ± 13.0 years.

Answer: We changed digits as you indicated.

3) Figure 1 is unnecessary.

Answer: We deleted Figure 1 and corrected number of other Figures accordingly.