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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 120001

Title: Helicobacter pylori retreatment: When clinical guidelines meet patient reality

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05038439
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree and professional title: Associate Professor, MD, PhD
Reviewer's Country/Territory: South Korea
Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2026-02-11

Reviewer chosen by: Hong-Xin Jiang

Reviewer accepted review: 2026-03-06 09:21

Reviewer performed review: 2026-03-09 07:21

Review time: 2 Days and 22 Hours

Content to be reviewed	Does the manuscript's content fall within the scope of the journal? **Yes** Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? **No** Do authors' affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? **Yes** Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? **Yes** Are the Key Words complete? **Yes** Is the content of the Introduction adequate? **Not**

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	Applicable Is the content of the Materials and Methods complete? **Not Applicable** Is the description of the experiments clear and complete? **Not Applicable** Are the experimental data presented in the manuscript's biostatistics content reliable? **Not Applicable** Are the experimental data of the Results true and reliable? **Not Applicable** Are the quality and resolution of the images up to standard? **Not Applicable** Do the selection and design of the figures and tables follow the principles of necessity and clarity? **Not Applicable** Is there any duplication between various parts of the manuscript and between the main text and the content presented in the figures and tables? **Not Applicable** Are the figures and tables numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the manuscript? **Not Applicable** Is the content of the Discussion reasonable? **Yes** Is the Conclusion reasonable? **Yes** Are all references necessary and reasonable? **No** Do authors omit important references? **No** Are all references related to the topic of the manuscript? **Yes** Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **No** Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **Yes** Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers? **Yes**

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	Are additional experiments needed for the study? **No** Does the research scope comply with ethics? **Yes**
Scientific quality	Grade B (Very good)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade A (Excellent)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade A (Excellent)
Language quality	Grade A (Excellent)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	Yes
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	Yes
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	No
Conclusion	Minor revision
Re-review	Yes
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Reviewer's AI contribution statement	

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This editorial provides a thoughtful commentary on a European registry-based study examining patterns of non-retreatment following confirmed H. pylori eradication failure. The authors effectively frame a "second gap" in the H. pylori eradication pathway, the failure to initiate rescue therapy even after documented treatment failure, and consider it within the broader context of gastric cancer prevention. The manuscript is well-structured, clinically relevant, and supported by an appropriate range of references.

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Major Comments

1. The authors did not critically evaluate the limitations of this registry study. Key methodological concerns of the study, such as the voluntary registry design, potential selection bias, and the absence of standardized patient-reported outcome measures, are not discussed. An editorial commentary is most valuable when it both contextualizes and critically interrogates the index paper. It is recommended to organize at least one paragraph to the inherent limitations of registry-based evidence in this context, and explain how these limitations affect the generalizability of the conclusions drawn.

2. The section "Gender differences and the 'silent decline' after failure" attributes male non-retreatment to sex differences in preventive care engagement and risk appraisal, citing a 2003 sociological reference (Williams DR, Reference 13) that is now over two decades old. The field of gender medicine has evolved considerably, and relying on a single dated sociological source to contextualize clinical registry findings is insufficient. The authors acknowledge that the registry did not capture the specific reasons patients declined, which further undermines strong interpretive claims about sex-linked behavior. This section should either be supported by more contemporary and clinically relevant references or reframed as a hypothesis-generating observation warranting prospective investigation.

Minor Comments

1. The manuscript uses both "compliance" and "adherence" inconsistently. Contemporary clinical and behavioral literature strongly favors "adherence" as it reflects a collaborative, patient-centered relationship rather than a hierarchical one. The authors themselves note the importance of shared decision-making and supported care. The term "compliance" (used in the context of the ≥90% medication threshold) should be clarified as a registry-defined metric, while the broader behavioral concept should be uniformly referred to as "adherence" throughout.

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2. The brief mention of potassium-competitive acid blockers (Reference 11) in the second section reads as a digression. The index study does not specifically address PCAB use, and the editorial's central argument concerns patient engagement, not pharmacological optimization. This passage should either be expanded with discussion of how newer regimens might specifically affect retreatment acceptance, or condensed to a single sentence to avoid distracting from the editorial's core thesis.

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 120001

Title: Helicobacter pylori retreatment: When clinical guidelines meet patient reality

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 07985371
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree and professional title: MD
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Türkiye
Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2026-02-11

Reviewer chosen by: Hong-Xin Jiang

Reviewer accepted review: 2026-03-12 22:27

Reviewer performed review: 2026-03-16 02:02

Review time: 3 Days and 3 Hours

Content to be reviewed	Does the manuscript's content fall within the scope of the journal? **Yes** Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? **Yes** Do authors' affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? **Yes** Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? **No** Are the Key Words complete? **Yes** Is the content of the Introduction adequate? **Yes**

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	Is the content of the Materials and Methods complete? **Not Applicable** Is the description of the experiments clear and complete? **Not Applicable** Are the experimental data presented in the manuscript's biostatistics content reliable? **Not Applicable** Are the experimental data of the Results true and reliable? **Yes** Does the research scope comply with ethics? **Not Applicable** Are additional experiments needed for the study? **No** Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers? **Yes** Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **Yes** Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **No** Are all references related to the topic of the manuscript? **Yes** Do authors omit important references? **No** Are all references necessary and reasonable? **Yes** Is the Conclusion reasonable? **Yes** Is the content of the Discussion reasonable? **Yes** Are the figures and tables numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the manuscript? **Not Applicable** Is there any duplication between various parts of the manuscript and between the main text and the content presented in the figures and tables? **Not Applicable** Do the selection and design of the figures and tables follow the principles of necessity and clarity? **Not Applicable**

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	Are the quality and resolution of the images up to standard? **Not Applicable**
Scientific quality	Grade B (Very good)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Language quality	Grade B (Very good)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	Yes
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	No
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	No
Conclusion	Minor revision
Re-review	Yes
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Reviewer's AI contribution statement	

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Specific Comments to Authors,

This editorial addresses an important and often underrecognized aspect of Helicobacter pylori management, namely the clinical gap that may occur after eradication failure has already been documented. The manuscript highlights the practical issue that a considerable proportion of patients do not proceed to retreatment despite confirmed eradication failure, which is a relevant problem in daily gastroenterology practice. The

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topic is timely and the manuscript is generally clearly written, with an appropriate selection of references.

A strength of the manuscript is that it shifts the focus from eradication regimens alone toward the broader clinical pathway after treatment failure. The discussion on patient follow-up, adherence, and communication between clinicians and patients provides a useful perspective and expands the discussion beyond pharmacologic considerations.

However, several points could be clarified to improve the manuscript.

First, the abstract appears somewhat similar to the structure used for original research articles. Since this manuscript is an editorial commentary based on previously published registry data, the abstract could be simplified to better reflect the nature of the article.

Second, in some parts of the discussion the wording seems slightly stronger than what can be directly inferred from the underlying data. The interpretations offered by the authors are reasonable, but it may be helpful to present them more clearly as possible explanations rather than firm conclusions.

Third, the section discussing potential patient-related reasons for not pursuing retreatment is interesting but somewhat speculative. As the underlying data do not directly capture patient motivations or physician–patient discussions, this limitation could be acknowledged more explicitly.

Finally, the manuscript occasionally uses different terms to describe similar concepts (such as retreatment gap or post-failure management). Using more consistent terminology throughout the text may improve readability.

Overall, this is a thoughtful editorial highlighting an important practical issue in the management of H. pylori infection. With minor revisions addressing the points above, the manuscript would be suitable for publication.

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 120001

Title: Helicobacter pylori retreatment: When clinical guidelines meet patient reality

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03713791
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree and professional title: Associate Professor, MD, PhD
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy
Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2026-02-11

Reviewer chosen by: Hong-Xin Jiang

Reviewer accepted review: 2026-03-11 09:18

Reviewer performed review: 2026-03-16 02:02

Review time: 4 Days and 16 Hours

Content to be reviewed	Does the manuscript's content fall within the scope of the journal? **Yes** Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? **No** Do authors' affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? **Yes** Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? **Yes** Are the Key Words complete? **Yes** Is the content of the Introduction adequate? **Yes**

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	Is the content of the Materials and Methods complete? **Not Applicable** Is the description of the experiments clear and complete? **Not Applicable** Are the experimental data presented in the manuscript's biostatistics content reliable? **Not Applicable** Are the experimental data of the Results true and reliable? **Not Applicable** Are the quality and resolution of the images up to standard? **Not Applicable** Do the selection and design of the figures and tables follow the principles of necessity and clarity? **Not Applicable** Is there any duplication between various parts of the manuscript and between the main text and the content presented in the figures and tables? **Not Applicable** Are the figures and tables numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the manuscript? **Not Applicable** Is the content of the Discussion reasonable? **Yes** Is the Conclusion reasonable? **Yes** Are all references necessary and reasonable? **Yes** Do authors omit important references? **No** Are all references related to the topic of the manuscript? **Yes** Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **No** Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **Yes** Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers? **Yes**

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	Are additional experiments needed for the study? **No** Does the research scope comply with ethics? **Not Applicable**
Scientific quality	Grade A (Excellent)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade A (Excellent)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade A (Excellent)
Language quality	Grade B (Very good)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	No
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	No
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	No
Conclusion	Minor revision
Re-review	Yes
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Reviewer's AI contribution statement	

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In the present editorial article Ren et al commented on a recently published article on WJG, addressing the problem of H. pylori re-treatment and loss of follow up after failure.

I believe that the point of view reported in the Editorial is fully shareable. nevertheless, the comments are quite witty and shed a new light on the problem described in the

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article by Cantu-Germano. Maybe, the only issue that can be commented on by Ren, is that compliance may be influenced also by the presence of a "caregiver", especially in older patients (paragraph "The asymmetry of adverse events...").

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 120001

Title: Helicobacter pylori retreatment: When clinical guidelines meet patient reality

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03713791
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree and professional title: Associate Professor, MD, PhD
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy
Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2026-02-11

Reviewer chosen by: Huo Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2026-04-16 08:39

Reviewer performed review: 2026-04-16 08:47

Review time: 1 Hour

Content to be reviewed	Does the manuscript's content fall within the scope of the journal? **Yes** Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? **No**

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	Do authors' affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? **Yes** Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? **Yes** Are the Key Words complete? **Yes** Is the content of the Introduction adequate? **Yes** Is the content of the Materials and Methods complete? **Yes** Is the description of the experiments clear and complete? **Not Applicable** Are the experimental data of the Results true and reliable? **Not Applicable** Are the experimental data presented in the manuscript's biostatistics content reliable? **Not Applicable** Are the quality and resolution of the images up to standard? **Not Applicable** Do the selection and design of the figures and tables follow the principles of necessity and clarity? **Not Applicable** Is there any duplication between various parts of the manuscript and between the main text and the content presented in the figures and tables? **No** Are the figures and tables numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the manuscript? **Not Applicable** Is the content of the Discussion reasonable? **Yes** Is the Conclusion reasonable? **Yes** Are all references necessary and reasonable? **Yes** Do authors omit important references? **No**

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	Are all references related to the topic of the manuscript? **Yes** Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **No** Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **Yes** Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers? **Yes** Are additional experiments needed for the study? **No** Does the research scope comply with ethics? **Not Applicable**
Scientific quality	Grade A (Excellent)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade A (Excellent)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Language quality	Grade A (Excellent)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	No
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	No
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	No
Conclusion	Accept
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Are your review comments generated by AI tools?	

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

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All answers were fne

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RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 120001

Title: Helicobacter pylori retreatment: When clinical guidelines meet patient reality

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 07985371
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree and professional title: MD
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Türkiye
Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2026-02-11

Reviewer chosen by: Huo Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2026-04-17 09:57

Reviewer performed review: 2026-04-18 20:39

Review time: 1 Day and 10 Hours

Content to be reviewed	Does the manuscript's content fall within the scope of the journal? **Yes** Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? **Yes** Do authors' affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? **Yes** Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? **No** Are the Key Words complete? **Yes** Is the content of the Introduction adequate? **Yes**

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	Is the content of the Materials and Methods complete? **Not Applicable** Is the description of the experiments clear and complete? **Not Applicable** Are the experimental data presented in the manuscript's biostatistics content reliable? **Not Applicable** Are the experimental data of the Results true and reliable? **Not Applicable** Are the quality and resolution of the images up to standard? **Not Applicable** Do the selection and design of the figures and tables follow the principles of necessity and clarity? **Yes** Is there any duplication between various parts of the manuscript and between the main text and the content presented in the figures and tables? **No** Are the figures and tables numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the manuscript? **Yes** Is the content of the Discussion reasonable? **Yes** Is the Conclusion reasonable? **Yes** Are all references necessary and reasonable? **Yes** Do authors omit important references? **No** Are all references related to the topic of the manuscript? **Yes** Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **No** Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **Yes** Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers? **Yes** Are additional experiments needed for the study? **No** Does the research scope comply with ethics? **Not**

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	Applicable
Scientific quality	Grade B (Very good)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade A (Excellent)
Language quality	Grade B (Very good)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	Yes
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	No
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	Yes
Conclusion	Minor revision
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Are your review comments generated by AI tools?	

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript addresses a clinically relevant but often overlooked aspect of Helicobacter pylori management, namely the gap between confirmed eradication failure and the initiation of rescue therapy. The topic is important, particularly in the setting of increasing antimicrobial resistance and the growing preventive focus of H. pylori eradication. The manuscript is well organized and offers a useful clinical perspective that goes beyond regimen choice alone.

A major strength of the manuscript is that it shifts the discussion from rescue regimens

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themselves to the broader issue of post-failure management. This is a valuable perspective. However, in some parts of the discussion, the interpretation of registry-based findings remains somewhat stronger than the available data directly support. I would suggest maintaining a cautious tone throughout, especially when discussing the reasons for non-retreatment.

The addition of the limitations section improves the manuscript. Still, the authors may further emphasize that registry-based data are subject to selection bias and unmeasured confounding, including differences in healthcare access, treatment cost, local practice patterns, and patient-related barriers. These issues are important when interpreting the broader clinical meaning of the reported retreatment gap.

The abstract has improved, but it still reads somewhat like the abstract of an original article. Since this is an Opinion Review, a more concise and clearly narrative abstract may be more suitable.

Another strength of the manuscript is that it highlights eradication failure as not only a microbiological problem but also a care-delivery issue. This is an important point. At the same time, some sections discussing resistance patterns and newer regimens could be tightened to keep the focus more clearly on implementation, follow-up, and patient-centered care.

The discussion of patient-related barriers is clinically meaningful, but because these factors were not directly captured in the cited registry data, they should be presented as possible contributors rather than firm explanations.

The manuscript is generally readable, although there are still some minor language and stylistic issues in a few sections, especially in the abstract and early parts of the text. A final language edit would be helpful. The tables are clear, useful, and add value to the manuscript.

In summary, this is a relevant and well-conceived Opinion Review that draws attention

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to an important gap in real-world H. pylori care. With minor revision for tone, emphasis, and language polishing, the manuscript would be suitable for publication.