

Prof. Dr. Dr. Jürgen Stein  
Department of Gastroenterology & Clinical Nutrition, DGD Clinics  
Schulstrasse 31  
60594 Frankfurt/Main  
Germany

Frankfurt, 14 July 2016

Dear Yuan Qi,

Thank you very much for the review of our manuscript (26365) and the overall positive feedback. We have addressed the comments and made appropriate changes. Please find our detailed point-by-point response below.

As per your request, revisions to the text are highlighted. We are confident that we have addressed the comments and hope that you will find the revised manuscript suitable for publication in World Journal of Gastroenterology.

The copyright assignment is signed by the corresponding author. As soon as all signatures are collated, it will be directly forwarded via email.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jürgen Stein

**Comments Reviewer 1 (Reviewer's code: 02861055)**

*... add a brief paragraph about iron absorption and metabolism to better understand molecular aspects discussed later.*

**Response:** A brief description of iron homeostasis has been included in the discussion.

*Authors describe results of studies but do not provide actual data → include this information when appropriate.*

**Response:** Because the comprehensive coverage of various conditions and their impact on ID/IDA makes the manuscript already rather complex, we decided intentionally to limit the presentation of data to those on prevalence of ID or IDA and underlying cut-off levels of relevant diagnostic markers. More detailed data can be retrieved from the references upon interest.

*Add the definitions of iron deficiency and iron deficiency anemia.*

**Response:** Added commonly used definitions in the introduction and suggested definitions for future clinical practice in the discussion (in addition to Figure 3).

*In "Chronic hepatitis and liver conditions", the Authors refer to telaprevir treatment for HCV. This regimen is however no longer recommended to treat HCV and the Authors should update the paragraph with data on new direct-acting antiviral.*

**Response:** The chapter has been updated accordingly.

*In the paragraph "Celiac disease" the sentence "Approximately 80% of anemic patients are also iron-deficient, and in 49% of anemic patients, ID was the only detected abnormality" is unclear and should be revised.*

**Response:** The sentence has been reworded for better clarity.

*In the paragraph "Celiac disease", the Authors should add data about iron deficiency of celiac patients on gluten-free diet and normal diet.*

**Response:** Aspects of gluten-free diet and ID were added.

*In Figure 1 "and" should be deleted from the text of the fist box on the left.*

**Response:** Done.

**Comments Reviewer 2 (Reviewer's code: 02861217)**

*Manuscript contains a lot of spaces absence between two words, which are make difficulties with the text readability.*

**Response:** It is not clear whether this effect occurred in the course of file transfer. Both the original manuscript and the revised version have been reviewed and checked by two native English speakers.

*In paragraph "Chronic hepatitis and liver conditions" not enough information about anemia in different hepatitis (f.e. in autoimmune) and information about drug-induced (telaprevir associated) anemia in the treatment of chronic hepatitis C is already not so actual, it will be better to noticed second generation DAA associated anemia (sofosbuvir etc.) with details about management.*

**Response:** The chapter has been updated accordingly.

*Analyze more data and details about ID in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD).*

**Response:** The chapter has been updated accordingly. However, there is only a limited amount of reliable data available.