Dear Editor,

We would like to thank Dr. Gupta [1] for his kind words of appreciation of our paper [2]. We are surprised, however, that he found the title “a bit confusing”. Indeed, a paper with a confusing title should also deliver confusing and unclear information, which we feel is not the case.

While we can agree that – from an epidemiological standpoint – “global eradication” of an infectious disease could mean its “total extermination or stamping out from the face of the earth”, the word has different meanings in different contexts. According to the Oxford English Dictionary [3], global could mean:

- Of, relating to, or involving the entire earth; worldwide
- Comprehensive; total

The title of our original submission was Eradication Rates for Helicobacter pylori Infection All Over the World: Lessons from a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Sequential Therapy. The title was changed during the revision process, taking into account that there are still some regions of world, where sequential therapy has not yet been tested. This was also a suggestion of the Referees. We think that confusion - if any - could be caused by reading only the first part of the title. Once the reader reaches “systematic review and meta-analysis of sequential therapy”, he should be able to understand both the meaning of “global” and the content of the paper.

The discovery of Helicobacter pylori and its involvement in digestive disease has been a revolution in the field. A PubMed search for Helicobacter pylori or H. pylori in Title/Abstract gives today (September 7, 2013) 34,028 items. Among them, some papers have used the word “global” in the same context [4-11].

Regardless, we thank Dr. Gupta [1] for his excellent “global” evaluation of our work and remind him that there are experts [12-15] in the field, who believe that total extermination of H. pylori is a desirable and achievable goal. The informal name for this strategy is “The only good H. pylori is a dead H. pylori”.

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References


