Author’s response to reviews

Title: Clinical course and outcomes of diagnosing Inflammatory Bowel Disease in children 10 years and under. Retrospective cohort study from two tertiary centres in the United Kingdom and in Italy.

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Re: BMGE-D-15-00108R1

Clinical course and outcomes of diagnosing Inflammatory Bowel Disease in children 10 years and under. Retrospective cohort study from two tertiary centres in the United Kingdom and in Italy.

Marco Gasparetto; Graziella Guariso; Laura Visona' Dalla Pozza; Alexander Duncan Ross; Robert Heuschkel; Matthias Zilbauer.

We are delighted that our paper has been accepted for publication in BMC Gastroenterology.

Following are the point-by-point responses to your latest comments.

Many Thanks, Yours Sincerely,

Marco Gasparetto.

1. When stating ethical approval, please provide the full name of both ethics committees

   The full names of the Medical Ethics Committees in the two Institutions were the study was carried out (Cambridge University Hospitals, NHS FT, Department of Paediatric
Gastroenterology, Cambridge - UK and Padua University Hospital, Department of Women’s and Children’s Health, Padova - Italy) have been added to the Methods Section. In Cambridge, the retrospective collection of clinical data for the children enrolled in this study was within the context of an Internal Audit on Inflammatory Bowel Disease (with relative approval by the Ethics Committee of the Trust). This has also been specified in the Methods part.

The text has therefore been modified as follows (Methods Section, paragraph 1, Study population):

“Ethical approval for the study was obtained from both Institutions (Cambridge University Hospitals NHS FT, Department of Paediatric Gastroenterology, IBD Internal Audit - Cambridge, UK; Medical Ethics Committee at the Department of Women’s and Children’s Health - Padua University, Padova, Italy).”

2. We notice your participants were under 18. We would therefore expect informed consent to have been obtained from their parents/guardians. Please confirm whether this was the case and amend your consent statement accordingly.

Consent was obtained indeed from the patients and their parents / guardians. This has been changed accordingly in the Methods Section (paragraph 1, Study population).

The text has been modified as follows:

“Each patient recruited and their parents/guardians were given appropriate information for consent.”