Letters to the Editor

Reply: Is there any association between proton pump inhibitors and fundic gland polyps?

Key words: Fundic gland polyps. Proton pump inhibitors. Endoscopy. Gastrointestinal.

Dear Editor,

The association between proton pump inhibitor (PPI) intake and the development of fundic gland polyps (FGPs) is a controversial issue and it has been challenged by García-Alonso et al. in a paper recently published in the *Spanish Journal of Gastroenterology* (1). On the other hand, we performed a prospective study in 1,780 upper gastrointestinal endoscopies and we demonstrated that PPI intake is the strongest risk factor for the development of FGPs, with an odds ratio of 9.00 in the multiple logistic regression analysis (95% confidence interval 5.44-14.89, $p < 0.0001$) (2).

Several reasons may have led García-Alonso et al. to opposite conclusions than ours. First, their study was retrospective and the number of FGPs that they found was very low, representing only 7.4% of gastric polyps. This figure is only comparable to those from three series from France, Italy and Croacia (9.97%, 3.31% and 9.68%, respectively) (3-5), but differs from those observed in two American series and in our own series (77%, 78% and 62.1%, respectively) (2,6,7). The small number of 19 analyzed FGPs may have introduced a type II error in the statistical analysis. Other methodological aspect to be considered is the choice of the control group that, for a study on predictive factors, should have included all the patients with no FGPs and not only those with polyps of a different etiology. An appropriate measure of asso-

ciation, such as the odds ratio, was neither used. Finally, three months of PPI intake is a too short period to evaluate a possible development of FGPs (7,8).

In summary, we want to point out that our data support a significant association between PPI intake and FGPs, while those by García-Alonso et al. seem to be insufficient to rule it out.

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