

**Comment 1: Please further indicate "our department" in the sentence "patients that were admitted to our department and had undergone H. pylori tests".**

Reply 1: According to your comments, we have added the relevant descriptions in the **Methods** section. They are highlighted by yellow in the main text (lines 123-124, Page 8).

**Comment 2: Please consider discuss in the Discussion regarding the replied issue-"Based on previous literature review, the H. pylori infection rate in military personnel serving for 3 years or more (63.2%) was significantly higher than those serving for less than 3 years (53.4%), and the difference was statistically significant between the two groups (P=0.028) (Jiang HL, Chen FW, Xia XL, Tian J, Han QF, Zhong Q, et al. Prevalence of and risk factors for Helicobacter pylori infection in Chinese military personnel. WCJD 2013; 21:4084-91). Accordingly, we defined the military service duration in the present study".**

Reply 2: According to your comments, we have added the relevant descriptions in the Discussion section. They are highlighted by yellow in the main text (lines 286-292, Page 17).

**Comment 3: Please revise the P value following the criteria below:**

**-If the  $P < 0.001$ , report " $P < 0.001$ ".**

**-If the P value is between 0.001 and 0.01 and less than 0.01, report the specific P value to 3 decimal places, e.g., " $P = 0.001$ " and " $P = 0.009$ ".**

**-If the  $P \geq 0.01$ , report the specific P-value to 2 decimal places, e.g. " $P = 0.01$ " " $P = 0.06$ " " $P = 0.10$ " " $P = 0.90$ ".**

**-If the P-value is greater than 0.99, report " $P > 0.99$ ".**

**-Do not round P-values, do not report "not significant" simply because the data are greater than an arbitrary value, and do not report only vague bounds such as  $P < 0.05$ , as described above, but report the exact P-value.**

Reply 3: According to your comments, we have changed the "p-values" in the main text and the tables.