□ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR □

Reply to the Letter by L. Filik Regarding “Long-term Maintenance Therapy with Rabeprazole for Reflux Esophagitis”**Key words:** nutrition absorption, adverse effect

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I appreciate the letter from Dr. Filik (1) and his question regarding nutrition absorption in our article (2). Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) have been widely used for gastric acid suppression therapy. PPIs are prescribed for patients of reflux esophagitis for long-term maintenance therapy (3, 4), and several studies have demonstrated the efficacy of PPIs for maintenance therapy for reflux esophagitis in Japan (5-7). Several adverse effects are reported for a long period use of PPIs, but these reports are controversial; some reports are positive and others are negative. Dr. Filik asked if PPIs influenced the nutrient absorption in our two-year follow-up study of PPI, rabeprazole (2). This study was a prospective study for the evaluation of maintenance therapy of rabeprazole for reflux esophagitis. Although the study was not designed to evaluate nutrition conditions, neither the serum albumin level nor hemoglobin level was decreased for the two years of follow-up and no malnutrition state was observed. Although it is possible to answer the question partly raised by Dr. Filik, this question might warrant further exploration.

Author's disclosure of potential Conflicts of Interest (COI).

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