- Extended Wireless pH monitoring significantly increases GORD diagnoses in patients with a negative pH impedance study but can be difficult to predict.
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Abstract

Introduction: Patients often undergo assessment for the presence of gastro-oesophageal 14 reflux as a cause of their symptoms. This is most often done by catheter based methods such as pH impedance and manometry if endoscopic evaluation is not diagnostic. In some patients a false negative catheter test may be suspected. Further testing can be done using a prolonged acid monitoring test such as the wireless pH monitoring (WPM) device which can assess acidic reflux for 96 hours. The increased yield of GORD-positive diagnoses for 19 extended pH monitoring as compared with pH impedance is unknown. Further testing is at the clinician's discretion with no guidance as to which parameters on pH impedance or 21 manometry, when this test is negative, may predict a subsequent positive WPM test. Aim: a) To determine the increased GORD positive yield that WPM may provide in patients 23 with GORD-negative pH impedance studies b) To determine parameters from the negative pH impedance result which may indicate a positive subsequent WPM so that the clinician 25 can select patients correctly in whom a false negative pH impedance result is suspected. Method: Consecutive patients who had undergone a negative pH impedance study for any 27 indication, with high resolution manometry, and a subsequent WPM within the same year, were identified from the medical records at a single high throughput oesophageal physiology department. The increased GORSD-positive diagnostic yield with WPM was determined. Univariate and multivariate analysis was performed to determine parameters from the pH impedance and HRM that predict a positive WPM. Results: Based on a threshold acid exposure time (AET) of 5.3%, of the 212 patients who underwent WPM 33 after a negative pH impedance study, 49% were found to have a positive result for GORD. A significant number were GORD positive after the 48 hours of recording (19%). Univariate analysis showed a significant difference between WPM-GORD positive and WPM-GORD negative patients groups for the basal respiratory minimum (mmHg)(p-value 0.003), the presence of endoscopically visible oesophagitis at WPM insertion, the number of acid episodes at pH impedance (p-value 0.036) and the % acid exposure time at pH

- impedance < 4 (AET) (p-value 0.001). On multivariate analysis only the AET at pH
- impedance and endoscopically visible oesophagitis was significantly associated with a
- 42 WPM-GORD positive result. The AET however did not provide a sufficiently accurate
- cutpoint to be used as a clinical parameter to determine who should undergo WPM testing
- in the context of a pH impedance negative result (AUC:0.65). Conclusion: There is a
- significant increased yield for GORD positive diagnoses with WPM. Standard parameters
- 46 from pH impedance and manometry cannot distinguish who is likely to need further testing
- with WPM, if the pH impedance is negative for GORD. The increased yield suggests that
- 48 a more formal study to assess the difference in GORD detection between WPM and
- impedance may be useful.
- 50 Keywords: Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, pH studies, wireless pH monitoring
- Word count: This document contains 2300 words

Extended Wireless pH monitoring significantly increases GORD diagnoses in patients with a negative pH impedance study but can be difficult to predict.

Introduction

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Wireless pH monitoring (WPM) is a useful method for the prolonged analysis of
oesophageal pH. It is most commonly used as an alternative to catheter based studies
especially in patients who are intolerant of the catheter or in whom catheter based studies
are negative for acid reflux but with a strong a priori possibility of a true positive result.
False negative catheter studies may occur if reflux is intermittent so that a 24 hour window
of assessment is insufficient (Tseng et al., 2005). WPM allows prolonged acid reflux
monitoring for up to 96 hours and is now in widespread use. It has been estimated that a
significant proportion of patients would have a positive finding of GORD if assessed with
extended pH studies rather than a 24 hour pH assessment (Scarpulla, Camilleri, Galante,
Manganaro, & Fox, 2007; Sweis et al., 2009). The increased yield of WPM over standard
pH impedance specifically however, has never been determined.

When deciding on the need for further pH testing given a negative 24 hour study, a clinican may take into account a number of factors including the nature and frequency of the symptoms, or other tests such as the endoscopy or manometry which may provide circumstantial evidence of GORD (Gyawali et al., 2018). There is however no guidance as to who should undergo prolonged acid monitoring in the presence of a negative pH impedance study. The aim of the current study was to establish predictors of a wireless pH study demonstrating GORD on a worst day analysis given a negative 24 pH study, using the pH impedance, manometry and endoscopy results.

74 Methods

Subjects. The results of all consecutive patients who had undergone a 24 hour pH impedance for any reason and a subsequent WPM between January 2010 and December

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2019 were retrospectively interrogated. Only patients who had undergone an initially
   negative 24 hour pH impedance result were included. A negative pH impedance test was
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   defined as having an AET for \leq 4.2\% of a 24 hour period (Gyawali et al., 2018). A WPM
79
   study was defined as positive if the patient had an AET for \geq 5.3\% of any 24 hour period
   (worst day analysis-(J. E. Pandolfino et al., 2003) and (Wenner, Johnsson, Johansson, &
81
   Oberg, 2005). A worst day analysis was chosen as it is more sensitive than average day
   analysis (Sweis, Fox, Anggiansah, & Wong, 2011).
83
        All patients selected were adults over the age of 18. Ethics was approved (IRAS
84
   18/NW/0120). Patients were excluded for the following reasons: 1. Previous oesophageal
   surgery or intervention such as endoscopic mucosal resection or radiofrequency ablation. 2.
   Less than 24 hours of recording on pH impedance. 3. Less than 48 hours of recorded data
   from the patient's WPM study.
        High resolution manometry protocol. Following local analysis of the nares
89
   the catheter was introduced trans-nasally and the patient was instructed to drink water
   through a straw whilst the HRM catheter was advanced to the stomach. The high
91
   resolution manometry (HRM) catheter depth was adjusted to ensure manometric visual of
   the upper oesophageal sphincter (UOS), the gastro-oesophageal junction (GOJ) and gastric
   pressures. 10 single swallows of 5ml were performed with each being 20 seconds apart.
   Each 5ml water swallow was then assessed in accordance to Chicago classification (version
   3) (Kahrilas et al., 2015) using Manoview software (version 3) (Sierra Scientific
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pH impedance protocol: Patients underwent reflux monitoring using Sandhill
Scientific multichannel impedance pH catheters (ZAN-BG-44) which were inserted
trans-nasally after applying local anaesthesia (xylocaine). The dual pH sensors of the
catheter were positioned 5cm below and above the manometric LOS. The impedance
sensors were positioned above the LOS by 3cm, 5cm, 9cm, 15cm and 19cm. Acid reflux was
considered when a retrograde impedance flow was observed and the oesophageal pH sensor

Instruments).

was detecting a pH value of <4. The data was captured by ZepHrTM recording device and data was analysed using the BioVIEW Analysis software (5.7.1.0).

96 hour WPM protocol: The 96 hour WPM procedure was performed after a 6
hour fasting period and discontinuation of acid suppressant The patient was asked to
complete a diary of symptoms and meal/drink times (except for still water), using the
clock on the WPM receiver, during the 96-hour pH recording. 3 symptoms of reflux were
decided by the patient and symbols allocated for each symptom. The patient was
requested to record these symptoms by pressing the appropriate symptom markers
(symbols) on the receiver, when the symptom occurred.

After the WPM capsule was calibrated, the patient was sedated according to local practice. Following a complete endoscopic examination of the upper GI tract a pH sensor located in a capsule (WPM pH capsule: 25mm x 6mm x 5.5 mm) was pinned temporarily to the wall of the Oesophagus 6 cm proximal to the Z line. The following parameters were obtained from the analysis and compared against normal reference values 1. Number of reflux episodes per day, 2. Total percent of time spent in reflux, 3. Percent of time spent in reflux in the upright position, 4. Percent of time spent in reflux in the supine position, 5.

Percent of time spent in reflux post prandial, 6. De Meester Score

Oesophagitis. Endoscopy records were retrospectively consulted for patients who had been submitted for a BRAVO with a negative impedance catheter study. The degree of oesophagitis recorded by the endoscopist at the time of BRAVO insertion was recorded for the patient. All endoscopists inserting BRAVO catheters used the Los Angeles oesophagitis grading system. Los Angeles grade A to D was included as classifying the patient as having oesophagitis.

Data cleaning: WPM, HRM and pH impedance results were ordered according to the patient identifier and date of the study. To ensure that there was no duplicated data for patients who had undergone more than two of any test, only tests chronologically closest to the test to be merged were chosen. To ensure relevance, tests were merged only if
there was less than one year's difference between the two.

Statistical analyses: Variables for analysis were chosen from Impedance and 132 HRM data on the following basis: Lack of multicolinearity and an adequate number of data 133 points to remove skew from missing data. All quantitative data were presented as mean±SD. Fisher's exact test or Wilcoxon rank sum test was used to compare non-parametric numerical data. Student's t-test was used to compare parametric numerical 136 data. Categorical data was compared using a chi-squared test of independence. The 137 following variables were chosen for analysis: Age (years), basal respiratory minimum 138 (mmHg), mean residual pressure (mmHg), distal contractile integral (mean 139 mmHg/cm/s), contractile front velocity (m/s), distal latency, percentage failed 140 swallows, percentage panoesophageal pressurization, percentage large Breaks, number of 141 small breaks, number of acid episodes, AET, mean acid clearance time, the longest acid 142 episode and the presence of oesophagitis at endoscopy. 143

Statistical comparison was carried out on all recorded parameters and those with p<0.05 were selected for evaluation in a multivariate model with a stepwise (forward selection/backward elimination) method. p<0.05 was taken as the threshold of significance for the multivariate model and the strength of association was expressed as odds ratio (OR) with 95% confidence interval (CI).

149 Results

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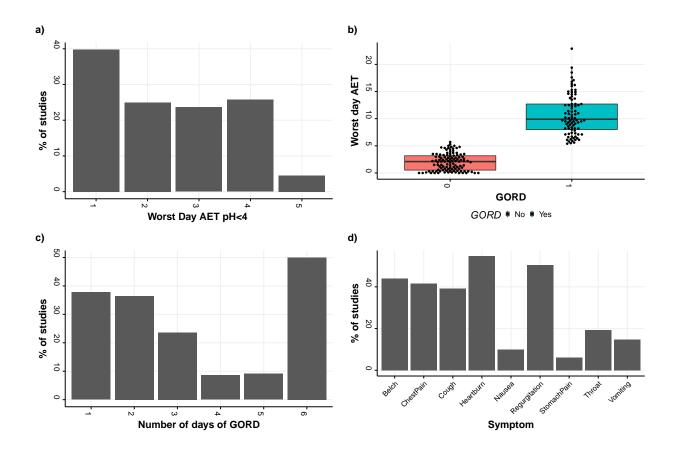


Figure 1. The characteristics of GORD positive WPM recordings for patients with negative impedance studies. a) Histogram of the worst day for WPM-GORD positive patients presented as a proportion of patients who completed a study in that day b) The percentage acid exposure time for WPM-GORD positive and WPM-GORD negative studies c) The number of days with GORD for GORD positive WPM studies expressed as a proportion of patients who completed the study for that number of days. d) The symptoms registered by patients as a percentage of all BRAVO epsisodes

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${f Characteristic}^1$	Negative, $N = 113 (53\%)$	Positive, $N = 99 (47\%)$	$p$ -value $^2$
Gender			0.50
Female	69 / 113 (61%)	55 / 99 (56%)	
Male	44 / 113 (39%)	44 / 99 (44%)	
LES midpoint from nares (cm)	43.8 (3.4)	43.5 (3.4)	0.31
Basal resp. min. (mmHg)	11 (8)	9 (10)	0.004
Residual mean (mmHg)	6.0 (5.0)	5.7 (6.1)	0.28
DCI (mean mmHg/cm/s)	890 (783)	741 (860)	0.059
Contractile front velocity (m/s)	4.21 (5.77)	4.04 (4.04)	0.74
Distal latency (s)	7.14 (1.88)	$6.93\ (1.26)$	0.89
% Failed peristalsis	33 (33)	36 (34)	0.65
% Panoesophageal pressurization	1.8 (5.9)	2.2 (9.6)	0.83

% Large Breaks	7 (15)	6 (12)	0.88
% Small breaks	14 (18)	15 (17)	>0.99
Number of Non acid episodes	18 (18)	21 (17)	0.10
Number of Acid Episodes	13 (17)	18 (16)	0.036
AET	0.96 (0.99)	1.54 (1.17)	< 0.001
Longest acid episode	8 (11)	8 (11)	0.20
Age (years)	49 (14)	47 (16)	0.27
Oesophagitis			0.003
N	111 / 113 (98%)	86 / 99 (87%)	
Y	2 / 113 (1.8%)	13 / 99 (13%)	
NA.			0.83
A	1 / 2 (50%)	5 / 13 (38%)	
В	1 / 2 (50%)	4 / 13 (31%)	
C	0 / 2 (0%)	3 / 13 (23%)	
D	0 / 2 (0%)	1 / 13 (7.7%)	
NA1			
Unknown	113	99	
NA2			
2.8301886792452833		1 / 2 (50%)	
6		1 / 2 (50%)	
NA3			
3.3018867924528301		1 / 2 (50%)	
7		1 / 2 (50%)	
NA4			
1.4150943396226416		1 / 2 (50%)	
3		1 / 2 (50%)	
37.1			

NA..5

0.47169811320754718		1 / 2 (50%)	
1		1 / 2 (50%)	
SAP Heartburn			0.71
N	53 / 113 (47%)	43 / 99 (43%)	
Y	60 / 113 (53%)	56 / 99 (57%)	
SAP Chest Pain			0.87
N	$65 \ / \ 113 \ (58\%)$	59 / 99 (60%)	
Y	48 / 113 (42%)	40 / 99 (40%)	
SAP Regurgitation			0.69
N	54 / 113 (48%)	51 / 99 (52%)	
Y	59 / 113 (52%)	48 / 99 (48%)	
SAP Belching			0.77
N	65 / 113 (58%)	54 / 99 (55%)	
Y	48 / 113 (42%)	45 / 99 (45%)	
SAP Cough			0.36
N	65 / 113 (58%)	64 / 99 (65%)	
Y	48 / 113 (42%)	$35 \ / \ 99 \ (35\%)$	
SAP Throat Symptoms			0.82
N	90 / 113 (80%)	81 / 99 (82%)	
Y	23 / 113 (20%)	18 / 99 (18%)	
SAP Stomach pain			0.22
N	113 / 113 (100%)	97 / 99 (98%)	
Y	0 / 113 (0%)	2 / 99 (2.0%)	
SAP Vomiting			>0.99
N	98 / 113 (87%)	86 / 99 (87%)	
Y	$15 \ / \ 113 \ (13\%)$	13 / 99 (13%)	

SAPTotalNausea 57 (47) 58 (48) 0.53

<sup>1</sup>Statistics presented: n / N (%); mean (SD)

<sup>2</sup>Statistical tests performed: chi-square test of independence; Wilcoxon rank-sum test;
Fisher's exact test

Baseline demographic data. Of the 212 included, 99 studies were positive for GORD (Male:Female 44: 55, average age of 47 (16) years and 113 negative for GORD (Male:Female 44: 69 average age of 49 (14) years).

The fraction of time with pH<4 (acid exposure time, AET), measured at WPM, is 174 shown in Figure 1. Worst day analysis demonstrated a positive skew towards a GORD 175 diagnosis on the first day. 37 (37.76)% of patients classified as WPM-GORD-positive were 176 positive for only 1 day. Of those diagnoses, 13 patients were positive on the first day. For 177 patients who only had one day of GORD, the extra number of GORD diagnoses on day 2, 178 3 and 4 of WPM was 10.9 and 5 patients respectively. The number of studies that were 179 negative for GORD in the first 24 hours and 48 hours of the WPM study was 22 (22.22 % 180 and 19 (19.19%) respectively. The worst day symptom association probability (SAP) was 181 positive in 63.68%. The majority of the worst SAP days occurred in the first 24 hours for 182 both positive and negative WPM studies. 183

Table 1: Table of demographics for GORD-positive ("Positive") WPM and
GORD-negative ("Negative") WPM studies

Measures of contractile vigour. WPM-GORD-positive patients had no significant difference in oesophageal lower DCI when compared with WPM-GORD-negative patients (WPM-GORD-positive patients (mmHg): 741 (860) vs. WPM-GORD-negative patients (mmHg): 890 (783) p=0.059). There was no significant difference in the distal latency between the two groups (WPM-GORD-positive patients (s): 6.93 (1.26) vs. WPM-GORD-negative patients (s): 7.14 (1.88) p=0.9.

No significant difference was observed between the two groups for large breaks

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(WPM-GORD-positive (%): 6 (12) WPM-GORD-negative (%): 7 (15), p=0.9) or for small
193
   breaks (WPM-GORD-positive (%): 15 (17) WPM-GORD-negative (%): 14 (18), p>0.9).
194
   Similarly there was no difference between the two groups in measurements of Contractile
195
   front velocity (WPM-GORD-positive (cm/s): 4.04 (4.04) WPM-GORD-negative (cm/s):
196
   4.21 (5.77), p=0.7) or panoesophageal pressurization: (WPM-GORD-positive (%): 2.2
197
   (9.6) WPM-GORD-negative (%): 1.8 (5.9), p=0.8)
198
        Measures of lower oesophageal sphincter. There was a significant difference in
199
   the basal respiratory minimum (mmHg) between the two groups (WPM-GORD-positive
200
   (mmHg): 9 (10) vs WPM-GORD-negative (mmHg): 11 (8) p=0.004). A lack of significant
201
   difference was noted for the residual mean (mmHg) between the two groups
202
   (WPM-GORD-positive (mmHg): 5.7 (6.1) vs WPM-GORD-negative (mmHg): 6.0 (5.0)
203
   p=0.3
204
        pH Impedance measurements. WPM-GORD-positive patients had a longer
205
   AET at pH impedance when compared with WPM-GORD-negative patients
206
   (WPM-GORD-positive patients (%): 1.54 (1.17) vs. WPM-GORD-negative patients (%):
207
   0.96 (0.99) p < 0.001).
208
         The AET when measured in an upright position was significantly increased in
209
   WPM-GORD-positive patients when compared with the WPM-GORD-negative group
210
   (p=0.001). There was no difference in supine reflux (data not shown). The longest time
   spent in reflux did not show any significant difference although the number of refluxes was
212
   significantly increased in the WPM-GORD-positive group 18 (16) vs. 13 (17) p=0.036.
213
        Symptoms and endoscopic findings. The SAP did not differ for any of the
214
   individual symptoms (heartburn, chest pain, regurgitation, belching, cough, throat
   symptoms, abdominal pain, vomiting, nausea) between the two groups. Oesophagitis was
216
   more common in the WPM-GORD-Positive group 13.10% vs. 1.80%. Of these patients, the
217
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patients were graded as Los Angeles grade A,B,C or D in 2.8%, 3.3%, 1.4% and 0.5%

- respectively. Univariate analysis highlighted Basal resp. min. (mmHg), Number of Acid
- 220 Episodes, AET and Oesophagitis for further investigation with a mulivariate analysis

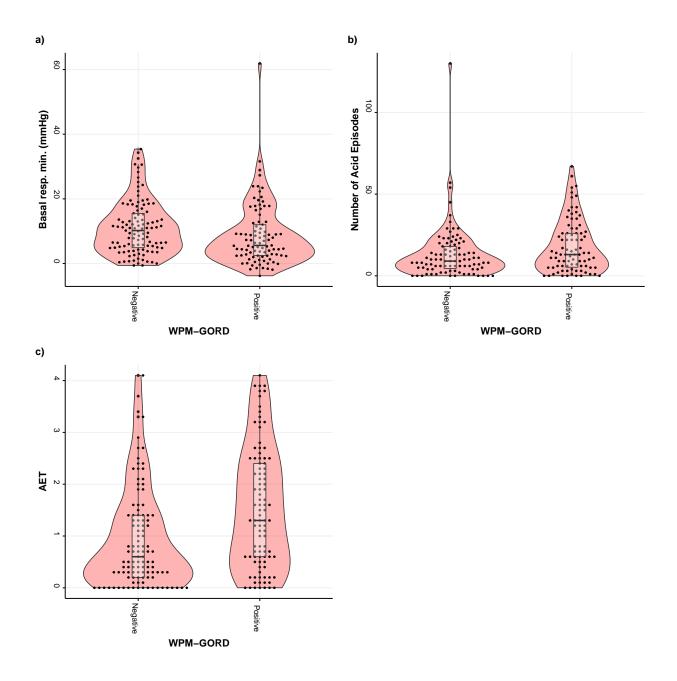


Figure 2. pH impedance characteristics for predictors of a positive wireless capsule study for pH impedance negative studies. a) Basal respiratory minimum (mmHg) b) Number of acid episodes c) Percentage time pH <4

### Multivariate analysis:

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Table 2: Table of multivariate analysis to assess pH impedance and manometry variables from the univariate analysis.

Characteristic	$\mathbf{OR}^1$	$95\%$ $\mathrm{CI^1}$	p-value
Basal resp. min. (mmHg)	0.98	0.95, 1.02	0.4
Number of Acid Episodes	0.99	0.96, 1.02	0.6
AET	1.66	1.10, 2.56	0.018
Oesophagitis	5.01	1.21, 34.1	0.047

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>OR = Odds Ratio, CI = Confidence Interval

A stepwise multiple logistic regression analysis was performed where the independent variables were those being analysed and the dependent variable was the presence of pathological acid reflux on a WPM study (**Table 2**). Variables chosen were those found to be significantly different in the univariate analysis. The AET at pH impedance was found to be a significant predictor of a positive WPM study: OR:1.66 (1.10-2.56, p=0.018).

Oesophagitis at the point of BRAVO insertion was also a significant predictor of GORD on mutivariate analysis OR: 5.01 (1.21-34.09, p=0.047)

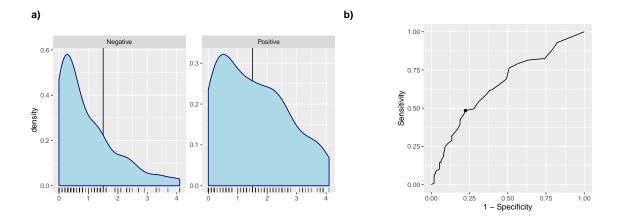


Figure 3. Optimal cutpoint with distribution by class and associated ROC curve analysis a) Denisity plot showing the ability to discriminate positive and negative tests given the calculated cutpoint for Acid Exposure time (%) b) ROC curve for the Acid exposure time (%)

Given that AET can predict a positive WPM, Youden's cutpoint estimation
determined that an AET of 1.50 gave a sensitivity of 48.45 % and a specificity of 77.68 %
for the prediction of a positive subsequent WPM study. A ROC curve analysis
demonstrated an area under the curve of 0.65,(sensitivity:

0.48%,specificity:0.78,accuracy:0.64 (Figure 3).

237 Discussion

The current study represents the largest cohort of pH impedance GORD-negative patients who subsequently underwent WPM testing at the clinician's discretion. This

cohort is unique in that the experience of increased positive diagnosis yield made with 240 wireless pH studies is replicated for the first time with pH impedance as opposed to 241 standard pH studies. It is notable that the WPM studies have shown a distribution of 242 positivity similar to previous studies: the diagnosis of GORD is most often made on the 243 basis of one day of positivity and of those patients who are positive for GORD, the worst 244 day analysis is predominantly on the first day. (Sweis et al., 2011). Furthermore a 245 significant number of WPM studies were positive after a negative impedance study. This 246 has been noted on previous studies (Sweis et al., 2011) and may be related to the extended 247 monitoring time (J. Pandolfino, 2003).

The increased yield of wireless pH as compared with standard pH studies has been 240 demonstrated previously (Scarpulla et al., 2007). The reasons for the increased yield may 250 be multifactorial including increased patient tolerability (Wong et al., 2005) and better 251 detection of intermittent reflux episodes. In this current study, of the patients who turn 252 out to be GORD positive, the number of patients who were GORD negative in the first 24 253 hours was 22.22%. A further 19.19% were still negative after 48 hours indicating that even 254 a 48 hour pH study may be insufficient. The number of patients who were GORD positive 255 on only one day also argues for monitoring for longer than 24 hours as it suggests that a significant number of GORD positive patients in this cohort may have intermittent symptoms.

The fact that there is an increased yield with prolonged monitoring is important for
two reasons. Firstly, it highlights the possibility that a pH impedance study may be a false
negative which increases the chance that a clinician may refer on for a prolonged WPM
study subsequently. Secondly, pH impedance is time consuming when compared to
BRAVO analysis and standard pH analysis; the analysis of much of the two latter studies
can be automated in a way that is not possible with pH impedance. Given the increased
patient comfort and tolerability associated with WPM studies (Wong et al., 2005),
automation of the much of the analysis, the ability to perform an endoscopic examination

during capsule placement and the increased positive diagnosis yield, there may be a strong
case for further clinical studies assessing the use of WPM as a first line investigation
instead of standard pH or pH impedance monitoring.

The fact that most motility variables were not associated with WPM 270 GORD-positivity is in keeping with the established literature that there is no specific 271 pattern at HRM that predicts the presence of GORD. There are findings however that are 272 more likely in GORD. Distal contractile integral (DCI), a measure of contractile vigour, has 273 been shown to be lower in GORD patients (Hoeij, Smout, & Bredenoord, 2015) although in 274 mild ineffective oesophageal motility the relationship to GORD is less well proven ((Fornari 275 et al., 2007)) The univariate analysis has only shown a tendency towards significance for 276 the DCI between the two groups although multivariate analysis did not demonstrate this to 277 be a significant discriminator. A reduced basal respiratory minimum pressure is also known 278 to be associated with increasing severity of GORD ((Savarino et al., 2011)) as has been 279 found in this study. Again this was not found to be an important factor on the multivariate 280 analysis. The fact that this is the case for both DCI and the basal respiratory minimum 281 may be related to the study population. 37% of patients positive for GORD by WPM were 282 only positive on one day indicating the intermittent nature of reflux in a proportion of this 283 cohort. Furthermore most of the patients did not have erosive oesophagitis. The DCI is well documented to be more severely affected in patients with oesophagitis and motility disorders are more commonly seen as patients progress from non erosive reflux disease to increasing severity of GORD to Barrett's oesophagus (Savarino et al., 2011). The study 287 population therefore represents a GORD population less likely to have motility dysfunction. 288 That the presence of oesophagitis is a predictor of a positive WPM is not surprising. Arguably, the presence of oesophagitis at endoscopy should preclude the need for further 290 pH testing (although in this study the oesophagitis was diagnosed at the point of WPM 291 insertion) so that this shouldnt be used as a predictor of a subsequent WPM study. 292

The significant difference in the acid exposure time at pH impedance, between those

who have GORD at WPM and those who do not is interesting. Some false negative pH 294 studies may be related to patients altering their behaviour because of the presence of a 295 nasal catheter (Fass et al., 1999) therefore reducing the AET into the normal range. It is 296 also possible that the cohort in this study represent more borderline GORD diagnoses 297 making the ability to use predictors more difficult. This significant difference does not 298 translate in to a value with sufficient accuracy to allow physicians to determine who should 290 go on to have a WPM study. Furthermore, no other measurement taken at impedance, 300 including parameters of non-acid reflux, are relevant albeit in this selected group. 301

The decision to submit a patient to a WPM study following a negative pH impedance study may be more likely in those who have typical and convincing symptoms. Typical GORD symptoms such as regurgitation and heartburn are well documented to be better predictors of oesophagitis than atypical symptoms (https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gtc.2013.11.002). It is therefore a surprise that symptoms do not predict the presence of GORD. This may be because the symptom was user-defined insofar as it was recorded by the patient. Patient-defined features do not always correlate well with questionnaire defined symptoms.

The study is limited insofar as it is retrospective and the selection criteria for those
who were selected for WPM were at the physician's discretion. Also, as noted above,
patient defined symptoms may be difficult to interpret. However the patient cohort does
represent a real-world selection at a high throughput centre.

In conclusion this study demonstrates that there is a significant increase in positive
GORD diagnosis yield in patients with a negative pH impedance in this group selected on
clinical suspicion for further testing. It is difficult to determine which patients may benefit
from prolonged oesophageal pH monitoring in the context of a negative 24 hour pH
impedance test. There is no single factor that reliably distinguishes those who will and will
not have GORD on WPM with sufficient sensitivity and specificity. The presence of

oesophagitis at endoscopy should indicate that a further period of monitoring is not
necessary rather than act as an indicator for further testing. The combination of increased
diagnostic yield and the inability to accurately predict who will have a positive extended
WPM could strengthen the argument for a more formal assessment of WPM as the first
line investigation in patients who require a positive diagnosis of GORD.

#### 325 Data analysis

We used R [Version 3.6.0; @] and the R-packages *EndoMineR* (Version 2.0.1.9000; Zeki, 2018a, 2018a), and *PhysiMineR* (Version 0.0.0.9000; Zeki, 2018b, 2018b) for all our analyses.

#### Author contribution

Sebastian Zeki, Jafar Jafari, Guiping Sui, Ismail Miah, Minerva da Silva, Anna Wolak:
acquisition of data, Andrew Davies, Abrie Botha, Terry Wong, Jafar Jafari: data analysis
and interpretation, Sebastian Zeki: statistical analysis, drafting of the manuscript; Jafar
Jafari, Guiping Sui, Ismail Miah, Minerva da Silva, Anna Wolak, Jason Dunn, Andrew
Davies, James Gossage, Abrie Botha, Terry Wong: critical revision of the manuscript for
important intellectual content.

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