

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

September 6, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 12755-review.doc).

Title: Three-field versus two-field lymph node dissection for esophageal cancer: a meta-analysis

Author: Guowei Ma, Dongrong Situ, Qilong Ma, Hao Long, Lanjun Zhang, Peng Lin, TiehuaRong

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 12755

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) In the last sentence of the abstract, the sentence “However, the results were not highly significant, and 3-field lymphadenectomy was associated with more postoperative complications” was changed into “This meta-analysis showed that 3-field lymphadenectomy improved overall survival rate while had more complications. Because of the highly heterogenous outcomes, definite conclusions are difficult to draw.

(2) We’ve improved the content of the abstract to make it more detailed. We added “We conducted a computerized literature search of the PubMed, Cochrane Controlled Trials Register, and Embase databases from their inception to present. Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) or observational epidemiological studies (cohort studies) that compared the survival rates and/or postoperative complications between 2FL and 3FL for esophageal carcinoma with R0 resection were included.” in the Methods.

(3) To improve the understanding of the readers, we’ve included all the abbreviations in the ABBREVIATIONS SECTION.

(4) The wrong cited references have been corrected.

(5) Figures that was not satisfied the instructions have been corrected

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3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guowei Ma". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Guowei Ma

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