

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Oct 28, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 13397-review.doc).

**Title:** Relationship between APE1 Asp148Glu polymorphism and gastrointestinal cancers risk: an updated meta-analysis

**Author:** Zhi-Jun Dai, Yong-Ping Shao, Hua-Feng Kang, Wei Tang, Dan Xu, Yang Zhao, Di Liu, Meng Wang, Peng-Tao Yang, Xi-Jing Wang

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 13397

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

The meta-analysis by Dai et al showed that the G allele of APE1 Asp148Glu polymorphism was associated with higher gastrointestinal tract cancer risk. Major comments:

(1) The histological type of cancers should be provided in each eligible publication if it is available. Pool of different cancer types may bias the results.

**Answer:** We thank the reviewer for pointing out this issue.

The histological type of the included studies are adenocarcinoma except one esophageal cancer (EC) study[26].

**In revised manuscript:**

Since only two EC studies with different pathological types[23,26] were included, this negative finding may result from a lack of statistical power.

(2) Sensitivity analysis is missing and should be performed.

**Answer:** As the reviewer suggested, we have made revision in this section.

**In revised manuscript:**

Sensitivity analysis and Publication Bias

The influence of any single study on the overall estimate was analyzed by excluding one study at a time. No significant difference was observed when any of the studies was excluded. Therefore, our results were statistically reliable.

(3) The authors should also mentioned other risk factors contributing to cancer incidence since as authors also noticed that GI cancers are caused by complex interactions between genetic and environmental factors.

**Answer:** We thank the reviewer for pointing out this issue.

In some included studies, no individual data such as histologic grade, lymph node metastasis, and other environmental index were available. We have discussed this limitation in the "Discussion" section.

**In revised manuscript:**

There are some limitations of this meta-analysis that should be noted. First, this meta-analysis was based on pooled data while no individual data was available; thus, we could not assess the risk of

cancer based on environment factors, age, and other risk factors of GI cancers.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

4 As to language problems, we have invited a native English speaker for professional help to revise my texts, and the amendments are highlighted in red in the revised manuscript.

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

Sincerely yours,

Zhi Jun Dai

Zhi-Jun Dai, MD, PhD

Professor

Department of Oncology, the Second Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an 710004, China

No.157, West 5th Road, Xi'an, China.

Tel: +86-29-87679226; 13991393919

E-mail: dzj0911@126.com