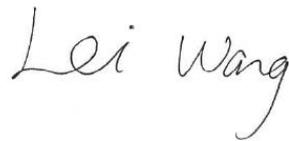


3 Biostatistics

The statistical methods of this study were reviewed by zi-xu yuan and li li from the Sixth Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-Sen University.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lei Wang". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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