

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS

December 27, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format ( file name: 14741-review).

**Title:** "The prognostic value and clinical correlations of 18-fluorodeoxyglucose metabolism quantifiers in gastric cancer."

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 14741

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

1.

-Language and references in the text body have undergone minor improvements,

- Existing figures have undergone a minor revision.

- The affiliation of the first author has been updated (according to the current status).

2. We don't provide the clinical trial registration because we analyzed <sup>18</sup>FDG-PET/CT scans retrospectively. We highlighted this information in material and method section.

3. The COMMENTS section and footnotes related to academic rules and norms have been added.

4. Revisions have been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers:

(1)

- The Results section of the abstract has been shortened.

(2)

- Language has been revised,

- Phrases in the discussion section requiring explanation have been described more precisely.

(3)

- The information regarding time-to-metastasis assessment for initially non-disseminated patients only has been highlighted in methods section to avoid confusion,

- The methods that were used to confirm disease dissemination during the follow-up of initially non-disseminated patients have been described,

- Information regarding pattern of TLG30 values in disseminated and non-disseminated patients as well as a note on the lack of significant prognostic value of initial disease dissemination in the Kaplan-Meier model have been added according to the reviewer's suggestion. A separate analysis of overall survival of patients in the initially non-disseminated group only has been added. This revision required adding a new figure to the manuscript (Fig. 3), as well as a modification of the abstract.

Yours sincerely,

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