

## **Institutional review board (IRB) statement**

Xiao-hang Zhao's research group submit an article titled A Case: Monitoring the progression and treatment efficacy of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma with circulating tumor cells.

This project focuses on research and analysis of circulating tumor cells from an esophageal squamous cell carcinoma patient. The overall purpose is to investigate whether the enumeration changes in circulating tumor cells reflects the tumor progression and treatment efficacy with esophageal squamous cell carcinoma. The participant will be involved in the whole treatment time. That participated in this study may bring benefits to the social groups. In this study, the patient only was drained 7.5ml peripheral blood to detect CTCs at follow-up, which would not bring subjects more discomfort and risk.

The study was reviewed and approved by the Navy General Hospital Institutional Review Board.

