

Institutional Review Board Statement

Title: Significance and prognostic value of increased serum direct bilirubin level for lymph node metastasis in Chinese rectal cancer patients

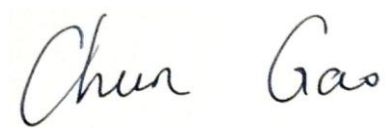
Manuscript Type: Case-Control Study

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We declare that this study was reviewed and approved by The Human Research Ethics Committee of China-Japan Friendship hospital. All procedures performed in our study involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of The Human Research Ethics Committee of China-Japan Friendship hospital and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

Dr. **Hong-Chuan Zhao**, and Dr. **Chun Gao**

(**Chun Gao**, the member of the ESPS, an editorial board member of World Journal of Meta-Analysis, ID: 02451558)

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

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