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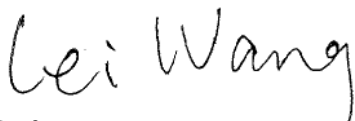
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Biostatistics statement

The statistical methods of this study were reviewed by Zixu Yuan and Tenghui Ma independently.

Thanks for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely



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