

To: *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

January 10, 2020

Dear Editor and reviewers,

Thank you very much for having our manuscript entitled **“Role of IL-17 gene polymorphisms on osteoarthritis: A meta-analysis based on observational studies” (No. 53169)** reviewed in a timely and professional manner and for giving us an opportunity to revise the manuscript. We also deeply appreciate the reviewers for their critical review of the manuscript with thoughtful and constructive comments, based on which we have revised the manuscript. At this time, we have re-submitted the revised manuscript through the Submission System again, and we hope to have an opportunity to publish this paper in **World Journal of Clinical Cases**. The changes made in the revised manuscript are highlighted by colored (red) text based on this revision. Our point-by-point responses to the editor and reviewers' comments are detailed below.

Reviewers' comments and responses:

Reviewer#1, -Add the unique of this study compared to other studies discuss the same issue. -Add more on the basic of this disease in the introduction -Discus role of imaging using these ref -Razek AA, El-Basyouni SR. Ultrasound of knee osteoarthritis: interobserver agreement and correlation with Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis. Clin Rheumatol 2016;35:997-1001. -Razek AA, Fouda NS, Elmetwaley N, Elbogdady E. Sonography of the knee joint. J Ultrasound 2009;12:53-60. -English language correction through the manuscript

Response: Thank you very much for your careful review and help. We had revised the manuscript according to the review reports and your comments (Page 11, Line 300-312; Page 3, Line 76-79). The two references have been added. English language

was edited by 'MogoEdit', please check 'Non-native speakers of English editing certificate'.

Reviewer#2, I have assessed the paper with the name of “Role of IL-17 gene polymorphisms on osteoarthritis: A meta-analysis based on observational studies”. My opinions are as follows; Title: Main idea is clear and understandable. Abstract: Abstract is readable. Introduction: The topic of the article is interesting and original. Previous pertinent literature cited and discussed. Therefore, introduction is adequate. The rationale of the study is well described. Methods: Study design is appropriate to achieve study aim. Statistical analyses are appropriate and used appropriately. Overall methodology is valid, replicable and understandable. Results: Results are clearly presented and comprehensible. Text did not duplicate the figures and tables. Discussion: Previous pertinent literature was critiqued. The authors demonstrated continuity between present study and previous studies. Similarities and differences to other studies were noted. Limitations of the study and further studies were indicated. References: References are updated and accurate. Also references are relevant and comprehensive.

Response: Thank you very much for your careful review and encouraging comment.

Reviewer#3, Manuscript titled “Role of IL-17 gene polymorphisms on osteoarthritis: A meta-analysis based on observational studies” deals an important issue of osteoarthritis. This meta-analysis was designed to investigate the association between polymorphisms of the interleukin-17 (IL-17) gene and the risk of OA. The work is great and complete. Moreover, there are some minor concerns that need to be addressed before recommending publication. It would be very interesting if the authors added in the text, to help better readers understanding, a sentence regarding other cytokines (anti-inflammatory and pro-inflammatory) related to OA. Please quote these interesting and recent papers or other similar: Moderate Physical Activity as a Prevention Method

for Knee Osteoarthritis and the Role of Synoviocytes as Biological Key. Int J Mol Sci. 2019 Jan 25;20(3). pii: E511. The Synovium Theory: Can Exercise Prevent Knee Osteoarthritis? The Role of “Mechanokines”, A Possible Biological Key. J. Funct. Morphol. Kinesiol. 2019, 4, 11. The Genetics of Osteoarthritis: A Review. J. Funct. Morphol. Kinesiol. 2016, 1, 140-153. In the conclusion section please specify better the clinical relevance of your work.

Response: Thank you very much for your careful review and help. We had revised the manuscript according to the review reports and your comments (Page 3, Line 76-79, 82-84; Page 12, Line 333-336). The mentioned references have been added.

Best wishes!

Sincerely yours,

The authors.