

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewer's comments concerning our manuscript entitled Impact of mTOR gene polymorphisms and gene-tea interaction on susceptibility to tuberculosis. Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer's comments are as flowing:

#### **Comment 1**

It is very important that the authors specify the type of tea, I suppose it is green tea because of the bibliographic support they present. This change must be in the title and throughout the text.

#### **Response 1**

We appreciate the reviewer's insightful advice very much. However, the statistical analysis of this study didn't limit the type of tea, just divided the item of "tea drinking" in the self-administered questionnaire into two groups according to the answers of "yes or no". And most of the participants drank green tea, while a few people drank home-made smoked tea or black tea in questionnaires. Therefore, the analysis in this paper included all of the types of tea we have investigated, and we didn't distinguish the type of tea as the reviewer suggested.

#### **Comment 2**

Authors must make a single table from Tables 4-7. Also do not repeat in the text what the tables already express. Put in them the meaning of acronyms, for example: RERI.

#### **Response 2**

We agree with the above comment and have made a single table as Table 4

(see below) from the original Tables 4-7, with the necessary meaning of acronyms including RERI under the table. We have also cut out of the unnecessary repetitions in the text as the reviewer suggested, and the following lines have been edited: Line 19-21 (Page 12), Line 29 (Page 12), and Line 2 (Page 13).

**Table 4 Impact of interactions between genotypes of mTOR gene and tea drinking on incidence of TB**

		Tea drinking		RERI <sub>c</sub>	RERI <sub>a</sub> <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
		no	yes		
rs2295080	TT	245	364	-2.0341	-1.5187(-1.9826,-1.0547) <sup>d</sup>
	GT+GG	212	176		
rs2024627	CC	367	468	-1.6561	-1.8270(-2.3587,-1.2952) <sup>d</sup>
	CT+TT	90	72		
rs1057079	TT	228	373	-2.7054	-2.3246(-2.9417,-1.7076) <sup>d</sup>
	CT+CC	229	167		
rs7525957	TT	326	444	-1.3684	-0.4235(-0.7756,-0.0714) <sup>d</sup>
	CT+CC	131	96		

RERI, the relative excess risk of interaction.

<sup>2</sup>adjusted for the covariates of sex, age, marital status, educational background, BMI, smoking status, alcohol drinking and BCG vaccination.

<sup>d</sup> $P < 0.05$ , RERI  $< 0$  suggests negative interactions.

### Comment 3

Update references to 2018-2020.

### Response 3

We have updated as many references to 2018-2020 as we could.

We would like to re-submit to World Journal of Clinical Cases, and hope it is

acceptable for publication in the journal.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely

Meng-Shi Chen