

14th March 2021

Editor-in-Chief. Lian-Sheng Ma

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Dear Editors and Reviewers,

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers' comments concerning our manuscript entitled "**Changes in the nutritional status of nine vitamins in patients with esophageal cancer during chemotherapy**" (Manuscript NO: **62941**). 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. Point-by-point responses to the editor's and the reviewers' comments are provided below this letter.

The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer's comments are as flowing:

Responds to the reviewer's comments:

1. Reviewer #1:

In this study, the authors investigated the changes of nine vitamins in patients undergoing chemotherapy for esophageal cancer, and their clinical values were assessed. Total 203 esophageal cancer patients were included, and the serum vitamins, hemoglobin, total protein, albumin, blood calcium, and blood phosphorus concentrations were measured. The authors found that vitamin A level significantly differed between male and female patients, vitamin D concentration significantly differed in different stages. And the hemoglobin, total protein, serum albumin and blood calcium concentrations significantly decreased after chemotherapy. Those results are very interesting, and valuable for the implementation of tailored nutritional interventions. In my opinion, this study is good enough for publication. Only a minor editing

is needed. No other special comments.

Response: Thank you very much for your helpful suggestions. We have made correction according to your comments. The format of the article has been revised following the Guideline and Requirements for Manuscript Revision(Retrospective Study).

2. Reviewer #2:

This is an interesting study about the nutritional status of nine vitamins in esophageal cancer patients. The incidence and mortality rates of EC are highly heterogeneous in terms of gender, histological type, geographic distribution, and race. Multiple vitamins are involved in the pathogenesis, progression, and prognosis of tumors and are closely related to the tumor microenvironment. There are few studies have examined the changes in vitamin nutritional status before and after chemotherapy for EC and their influencing factors. Most vitamins were found to be negatively associated with the risk of colorectal and gastric cancer in addition to esophageal cancer, yet interventional treatment failed to demonstrate a clear preventive effect in these malignancies. In this study, the effects of chemotherapeutic drugs on EC patients' vitamin levels and hematological indicators were analyzed. Those findings are valuable for the implementation of tailored nutritional interventions. And it will help to reduce chemotherapy-related complications, alleviate treatment resistance, and improve chemotherapy efficacy of esophageal cancer. This study is very well designed. The samples are enough and methods are clearly described. The results are very interesting. The reviewer recommends to accept this study for publication after a minor revision. Comments: 1. The manuscript is very well written. Only a minor language revision is required. 2. The red words in the tables should be explained or noted. Are they mean significant difference? Please make a clarify. And also, the tables should be moved to the end of the manuscript. 3. References are updated. However, the references list should be edited

carefully.

Response: Thank you very much for your careful review of our manuscript. Your valuable comments and suggestions are inspiring and have provided new insights and directions for our subsequent research. Based on your suggestions, we have made revisions and added relevant contents. We give our responses below, and hope the revised version will meet your standard of publication.

As follows:

(1). We have made revisions on language. (2).The red words in the tables mean significant difference. We have changed them to black words according to revision requirement. And also, the tables have been moved to the end of the manuscript. (3).The references list has been edited carefully.

3. EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

Response as follows:

(1)The "Author Contributions" section has been provided. (2) the approved grant application form has been provided. (3) We have provided the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Reference 10,11,13 and 17 are not indexed by PubMed, We have provided printed copies of the first pages of the full articles. (4) The "Article Highlights" section was added at the end of the main text.

We tried our best to improve the manuscript and made some changes in the manuscript. These changes will not influence the content and framework of the paper.

We appreciate for Editors/Reviewers' warm work earnestly, and hope that the correction will meet with approval.

Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

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