

## The comments of the reviewer and my response

1. "Abstract" conclusion: betel nut should be changed as betel quid or areca nut for accuracy. Similarly, the authors should also check through text.

**Response:** Thank you for your comment. I have changed betel nut to betel quid or areca nut after checking the full text.

2. Betel nut [15]?

**Response:** Thanks for your comment. I have checked the expression of this sentence.

3. Whether drinking (not specific) is better to be instead by alcohol consumption or alcohol drinking?

**Response:** Thank you for your comment. I have changed the expression in text.

4. Page 4, "Through reading literatures, we believed that betel quid has different damage for these precancerous lesions, but the mechanisms were similar". While clinical pictures may be similar, etiology, molecular changes and mechanism can show some difference. So different damage is possibly due to different mechanisms. This point should be mentioned and described in "Introduction" or "Discussion" (as below)

**Response:** Thank you for your suggestion. I have revised the content in page 4.

5. While some important studies were not used for meta-analysis, their contents should be discussed in "Discussion" section and referenced (e.g., J Oral Pathol Med. 2015 Mar;44(3):167-77; Oral Oncol. 2001 Sep;37(6):477-92; Oral Oncol. 2006 Jul;42(6):561-8; J Oral Pathol Med. 2017 Nov;46(10):1040-1045; Indian J Med Res. 2018 Dec;148(6):681-686; Int J Mol Sci. 2020 Oct 30;21(21):8104.).

**Response:** Thank you for your suggestion. I have revised.

6. Page 5, "..... a third author (Mengyuan Tian) would decide". "A third author can join to discuss and reach a consensus" seems better.

**Response:** Thank you for your suggestion. I have revised the sentence.

7. Table 2, study number: meaning of 125:876, 94:876 etc.

**Response:** Thank you for your suggestion. The number means the sample size of the study. When the study design is case control study, we described the sample size as **A: B**, it meant that the number of case: control. When the study design is cross-sectional study, we described the sample size as **A** directly.

8. "A forest plot of the results of the individual studies and the pooled result was shown in Figure 2.". Past tense is better?

**Response:** Thank you for your suggestion. I have revised the sentence.

9. Page 9: Effect of drinking and betel quid chewing on oral potential malignant disorders

**Response:** Thank you for your suggestion. I have revised the sentence.

10. Some typewriting errors should be carefully checked and corrected (e.g., After u sing Endnote software, page 5 – exposure to smoking, etc.)

**Response:** Thank you for your suggestion. I have checked the typewriting.