

Dear Reviewers,

Thank you for your comments concerning our manuscript entitled "*Association of interleukin-17 genetic polymorphisms and serum levels with ulcerative colitis risk: a meta-analysis*". Your comments were all very valuable in revising and improving our paper. These comments are also very important in guiding our research. We have considered your comments carefully and have made corrections that we hope meet expectations. Revised portions of the paper are marked in red. The main corrections along with our responses to your comments are as follows:

To Reviewer :

1. Comment: For manuscripts submitted by non-native speakers of English, please provided language certificate by professional English language editing companies.

If you believe that the language of your manuscript has reached or exceeded Grade A and would like to sign a guarantee. However, if we later find that the language of your manuscript has not reached Grade A, your paper will be rejected

Please highlight the changes made to the manuscript according to the peer-reviewers' comments.

Response: Thank you for your comments. According to your suggestion, our manuscript has been polished by native English speakers with experiences in reading scientific manuscripts, especially in the field of biology. We tried our best to check for language and grammatical errors in the text.

2. Comment: Please describe every author's contribution to this paper. You may refer to the format.

Response: Author Contributions:

Conceived and designed the experiments: Bin Han.

Performed the experiments: Juan Li.

Analyzed the data: Juan Li and Hao Tian.

Contributed materials/analysis tools: Hui-Jun Jiang.

Wrote the paper: Juan Li.

Final approval of manuscript: Bin Han.

3. Comment: Please write the aim as the form of “To investigate/study/...”;

Response: Thank you for your comments. According to your suggestion, we revised the aim in the “**Abstract**”. “To investigate the relationships of interleukin-17 (*IL-17*) genetic polymorphisms and serum levels with the risk of ulcerative colitis (UC), we systematically conducted the current meta-analysis with published case-control studies.”.

4. Comment: no less than 80 words

Response: Thank you for your comments. According to your suggestion, we revised the methods in the “**Abstract**”. “Relevant articles were identified through searching the following electronic databases without any language restrictions: the Cochrane Library Database (Issue 12, 2013), Web of Science (1945~2013), PubMed (1966~2013), CINAHL (1982~2013), EMBASE (1980~2013), and the Chinese Biomedical Database (CBM) (1982~2013). Meta-analysis was conducted with the use of the STATA 12.0 software. Crude odds ratios (OR) and standardized mean difference (SMD) with their 95% confidence interval (95%CI) were calculated to estimate the relationships of *IL-17* genetic polymorphisms and serum levels with the risk of UC.”.

5. Comment: Please write a summary of less than 100 words to outline the most

innovative and important arguments and core contents in your paper to attract readers

Response: Thank you for your comments. According to your suggestion, we wrote a summary of less than 100 words to outline the most innovative and important arguments and core contents. This is the first meta-analysis focused on the associations of *IL-17* genetic polymorphisms and serum IL-17 levels with the risk of UC, which indicates that *IL-17A/F* genetic polymorphisms and serum IL-17 levels may contribute to the development and progression of UC.

6.Comment: Please delete the extra space, Please check across the text.

Response: I apologize for my mistake. We have deleted the extra space and checked across the text.

7.Comment: Please write the COMMENTS section here. See the format in the attachment file-revision policies (Highlighted contents).

Response: Thank you for your comments. According to your suggestion, we wrote the COMMENTS section.

8.Comment: Please revise the format like this, Please check across the table. So do table 2

Response: I apologize for my mistake. We have revised the format and checked across the tables.

9.Comment: Would you please provide the decomposable figure of Fiugres, whose parts are movable and can be edited. So please put the original picture as word or ppt format so that I can edit them easily.

Response: Thank you for your comments. According to your suggestion, we put the original picture as ppt format.

We tried our best to improve the manuscript and made some significant changes in the manuscript. These changes will not influence the content, research, and framework of the paper. We did not list all the changes here as they are marked in red in the revised paper. We earnestly appreciate your work and hope that our corrections and improvements will meet your approval.

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

Thank you and best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Proffer Bin Han

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