

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to revise our manuscript. We thank the reviewers for the thoughtful comments on our paper and carefully taken these comments into consideration in preparing our revision, below is our response to the reviewer.

Revision – authors' response

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade D (Fair)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Major revision

Specific Comments to Authors: The letter supports the outcome of the article of Gao et al published on June in WJG. The letter is clearly comprehensible but the problematic issue is that the letter contains only general comments. The letter made some suggestions for a future research regarding the tumor relative enhancement ratio (TRER) and metastatic pancreatic cancer.

Revised, new content added to the article regarding quality evaluation of the present study, study significance, clinical application, and the highlights of the latest cutting-edge research results. Please see the highlighted sections on pages 3 and 4 of the text for details

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade C (A great deal of language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: What is the quality and importance of this GAO study? What was the original discovery? What new concepts does this study propose? Does the conclusion properly summarize the data provided in this study? What unique insights does this study offer and how will it affect basic science and/or clinical practice?

(1) What is the quality and importance of this GAO study?

Please see the first paragraph on page 3 of the text for details " This was a moderate-quality observational study with a Newcastle–Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale score of 6 (3, 1, 2) that was assessed independently by two of our authors. The importance of this study was that it revealed the ability to predict the overall survival of patients with resectable pancreatic cancer (PC) from an imaging perspective, providing assistance in developing early treatment plans and improving patient prognosis. "

(2) What was the original discovery?

Please see the first paragraph on page 3 of the text for details "Gao et al. initially found that enhanced computed tomography (CT) characterizing vascular perfusion could be used as a quantitative imaging biomarker (QIB) of the malignant potential of PC. Based on this innovative idea and combined with data analysis, the authors demonstrated the value of QIB for predicting the prognosis of patients with PC. "

(3) What new concepts does this study propose?

Please see the first paragraph on page 3 of the text for details "In addition, the authors proposed some new concepts to calculate the difference between the region of the overall tumor (ROT) of the portal venous (PV) phase and that of the non-enhancement phase as the tumor enhancement amplitude (TEA), and the difference between the pancreatic tissue outside the tumor of the PV phase and that of the non-enhancement phase was used as the pancreatic enhancement amplitude outside the tumor (PEA). The tumor relative enhancement ratio (TRER) was then derived as TEA/PEA."

(4) Does the conclusion properly summarize the data provided in this study?

Please see the first paragraph on page 3 of the text for details "Based on a retrospective analysis of 67 patients with resectable PC, the conclusions drawn by the authors properly summarize the data in the study. "

(5) What unique insights does this study offer and how will it affect basic science and/or clinical practice?

This study provides the unique insight that preoperative enhanced CT is a simple and effective predictive tool for overall survival in patients with PDAC and highlighted the need for close monitoring of patients with TRER  $\leq 0.7$  because their prognosis is likely to be poor. The importance of this study was that it revealed the ability to predict the overall survival of patients with resectable pancreatic cancer (PC) from an imaging perspective, providing assistance in developing early treatment plans and improving patient prognosis. Please see the highlighted section in the first paragraph on page 3 of the text for details.

Company editor-in-chief:

请将 Letter to the editor: Prognostic value of preoperative enhanced computed tomography as a quantitative imaging biomarker in pancreatic cancer 替换成 Prognostic value of preoperative enhanced computed tomography as a quantitative imaging biomarker in pancreatic cancer. I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, the full text of the manuscript, the relevant ethics documents, and the English Language Certificate, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Gastroenterology, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors. Before final acceptance, when revising the manuscript, the author must supplement and improve the highlights of the latest cutting-edge research results, thereby further improving the content of the manuscript. To this end, authors are advised to apply a new tool, the Reference Citation Analysis (RCA). RCA is an artificial intelligence technology-based open multidisciplinary citation analysis database. In it, upon obtaining search results from the keywords entered by the author, "Impact Index Per Article" under "Ranked by" should be selected to find the latest highlight articles, which can then be used to further improve an article under preparation/peer-review/revision. Please visit our RCA database for

more information at: <https://www.referencecitationanalysis.com/>.

(1) The title of the article has been revised.

(2) Please see the highlighted section in the second paragraph on page 3 of the text for details of the new cutting-edge content "In recent years, QIB has become more widely used in clinical practice because the objective features obtained from *in vivo* images measured on a scale of proportions or intervals can serve as indicators of normal biological processes, pathogenic processes, or responses to therapeutic interventions. We therefore use an open multidisciplinary citation analysis database based on artificial intelligence techniques termed Reference Citation Analysis. We used "quantitative imaging biomarker" and "pancreatic cancer" as search terms to find the most recent (last 5 years) and relevant cutting-edge research. Overall, the application of QIB is mainly combined with a clinical perspective, and it plays an important role in characterizing tissue, detecting disease, identifying phenotypes, defining longitudinal changes, or predicting outcomes. As previously mentioned, the highly invasive and metastatic nature of PC makes the search for prognostic biomarkers with high accuracy challenging. Numerous studies developed different QIB models that, in addition to characterizing microvascular density, significantly compensate for the survival prediction rate of clinical models and contribute to clinical decision making. Next, we provide a brief analysis of PC survival prediction based on the study by Gao *et al.* and in the context of the current state of research."

In addition, the most recent relevant studies on radiomics application of QIB for survival prediction in resectable pancreatic cancer and advanced pancreatic cancer are in the last two paragraphs of the text, involving QIB-related references 7-14, 16-19 all from the RCA database.

Science editor:

Authors are requested to send their revised manuscript to a professional English language editing company or a native English-speaking expert to polish the manuscript further. When the authors submit the subsequent

polished manuscript to us, they must provide a new language certificate along with the manuscript.

The revised manuscript has been re-polished and the language editing certificate has been provided.

We are very interested in the journal *World Journal of Gastroenterology* and have learned a lot from the suggestion from the editors and reviewers. We hope you will consider our paper.

Best wishes,

Shi Liu.