

August 4th, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 10749-review.doc).

**Title:** FGFR4 protein expression and clinicopathological features in gastric cancer

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**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO: 10749**

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) According to the suggestions of the peer reviewer( review number : 02937538 ), I have corrected writing errors in the article. You can check it in the revised manuscript.

(2) The peer reviewer( review number : 02520050 ) commented that the survival analysis, while numerically different for FGF4R high and low expression tumors, is not statistically significant. Although no significant difference was observed in survival between patients with high and low expression tumors, but when the whole patients were stratified by different clinicopathological parameters, significant difference was observed in several subgroups of gastric cancer. It is very hard to find an independent risk factor for the whole group.

And the we do not think these data are discordant. The gastric cancer with high FGFR4 protein expression means more aggressive behavior. The difference was significant in patients with better prognosis when the tumors are relatively small, well-differentiated and in early GC stages.

(3) According to the suggestions of the peer reviewer( review number : 02541999 ), I have corrected writing errors in the article and added more dicussions. You can check it in the revised manuscript.

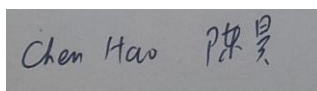
There is no significant difference for FGFR4 high and low expression tumors when the patients were stratified by age, sex, T/N/M factor, and histological type in univariate analysis, so we do not think the multivariate analysis for these factors are necessary. This is a retrospective study, we still need more studies to investigate the degree of fibrosis of the tumor and the relationship between FGFR4 and Topoisomelase II $\alpha$ . Thank you for your suggestion. For patients of stage IV, the surgery is curative but not radical.

3 References and typesetting were corrected.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

Hao, Chen

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be 'Chen Hao' in English and Chinese characters '陈昊'.

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