

### **1 Biostatistics**

This is a descriptive study; results are presented as means and/or percentages based on data extracted from the original article. The statistical methods from the original articles were evaluated but not repeated.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

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