

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

September 01, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 12614-review.doc).

Title: Association between cadherin 17 protein expression and the pathological characteristics of gastric cancer: a meta-analysis

Author: Zi-Wen Long, Meng-Long Zhou, Jing-Wei Fu, Xian-Qun Chu, Ya-Nong Wang

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 12614

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

To Reviewer:

(1)The review requires language editing.

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

To Reviewer # 00074961:

(1)**Comments:** You should delete “mainly through integrin-Ras/Raf/MEK/ERK signaling” of the conclusion: this is not the objective of your study.

Response: According to your suggestion, we have deleted the sentence.

(2) Comments: It is important to know the reason of the high heterogeneity (all I^2 test > 50 %). Could you hypothesize something more about this point different to gender, age and detection method?

Response: According to your comments, we have added in the **Discussion** section, with respect to the explanation of high heterogeneity sources, *“A large number of the included studies were designed with small sample sizes, six studies lacked of complete gender and age information, and the CDH17 expression detection methods were different from each other (EnVision, PV, LSAB, SP, and ABC). In this regard, the difference in age, sex, and detection methods might be largely responsible for heterogeneity.”*

(3)Comments: There is only a non-Asian study, although with the large sample. Perhaps this should be mentioned in the text.

Response: Thank you for your advice, we have added this content in the baseline characteristic description from the **Results** section with, *“There was only one non-Asian study, though it had a large sample.”* and added as one limitation of our research in the **Discussion** part, *“Additionally, there was only one non-Asian study, and even though it had a large sample, this might influence the scope of our results.”*

To Reviewer # 00506058:

(1)Comments: The result showed that CDH17 showed....please correct remains inconsistent, we therefore hypothesized that....should be divided into two

sentences

presented that high..... please correct

among China..... please correct

Gastric cancer (GC) is a malignant disease.....sure it is malignant

is known as a multifactorial..... please correct

Response: According to your suggestions, we have revised the contents, and our manuscript was polished by native English speakers with experience reading scientific manuscripts, especially in the field of biology. We tried our best to check for language and grammatical errors in the text.

(2) Comments: A variety of risk factors...what about meat?

Response: Thank you for your advice. Thank you for your advice. We have supplemented this sentence with *“A variety of factors that related to the occurrence and progression of GC have been confirmed, containing Helicobacter pylori infection, low intake of fruits, foods high in salt, smoking, preserved foods and nitrites[4, 6, 7].”*

(3) Comments: Our study has some limitations that should be further confirmed for several reasons as follows..... please rewrite the sentence more clearly

Response: Thank you for your advice. According to your comments, we have revised the sentence. *“Our study does have some limitations that merit additional investigation.”*

(4) Comments: The first limitation in the current analysis may be that our study is.....
please rewrite the sentence more clearly

Response: Thank you for your advice. According to your comments, we have revised the sentence. *“Firstly, our study is an observational research that is cross-sectionally designed.”*

(5) Comments: Our conclusions, however, need to be confirmed for the purpose of the limitations of the present analysis, and to the best combination of more larger sample size published, using a consistent definition for ‘high’ or ‘low’ expression on this topic, in future diagnosis and treatment of GC. please rewrite the paragraph more clearly

Response: Thank you for your advice. According to your comments, we have revised the sentence. *“Our conclusions, however, need to be confirmed due to the above limitations, via a combination of more and larger sample size publications, which use a consistent definition for cut-off values.”*

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,



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