

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS



Nov 25, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 14210-manuscript with revision.docx).

**Title:** Infliximab is superior to the other biological agents for the treatment of active ulcerative colitis: a meta-analysis

**Author:** Wei-qun Mei, Hui-zhen Hu, Ying Liu, Zhi-chen Li, Wei-guo Wang

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 14210

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) Mesh terms should be used in review of medical databases

Reply: Thanks for the comment. Mesh terms have already been used in screening literatures, although it was not mentioned in the manuscript. The search strategy was shown as below: (("Colitis, Ulcerative/drug therapy"[Mesh] OR "Colitis, Ulcerative/therapy"[Mesh])) AND "Randomized Controlled Trial" [Publication Type] and "infliximab". Searches were repeated 4 times as infliximab replaced by dalimumab or golimumab or vedolizumab.

(2) Flow diagram is really poor and not consistent with Quorum rules. I can see no results for handsearching did you do it?

Reply: According to the reviewer's suggestion, the flow diagram has been redrawn. We are not able to screen literature by handsearching due to the limitation of our library.

(3) I can see no Conclusions section in the manuscript

Reply: We have added the conclusion section.

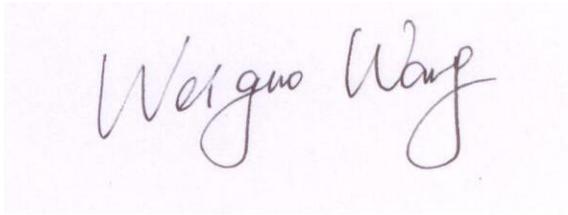
(4) MTC have a lot of limitations due to heterogeneity of the studies included in the review. No heterogeneity analysis was performed just a short notice in the Discussion on differences among studies included in MTC - in my opinion it's a very important limitation and problem and detailed heterogeneity analysis before MTC or before meta-analysis should be performed.

Reply: According to the reviewer's suggestion, we added the heterogeneity analysis in the method, result (Table 2) and discussion section. However, there is not any effective way to assess the heterogeneity between different drugs yet.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light pink background. The signature reads "Weiguo Wang" in a cursive, flowing script.

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