

Dec 10, 2014



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 14288-edited.doc).

Title: Impact of Circulating Tumor Cells in Colorectal Cancer Patients Undergoing Laparoscopic Surgery

Author: Jung-Jyh Hung, Chun-Chi Lin, Shung-Haur Yang, Wei-Shone Chen

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Surgical Procedures*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 14288

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

Response to editor:

We have revised our manuscript according to the editor's suggestions in the edited manuscript file.

1. We have added the running title in title page.
2. We have added postcode in affiliations.
3. We have added the statement of conflict of interest in page 2.

Thank you very much!

Response to reviewers:

Comments to the Author

In the present study, the authors presented "Impact of Circulating Tumor Cells in Colorectal Cancer Patients Undergoing Laparoscopic Surgery". The theme of this review is very interesting. The contents of this review is useful even for readers who is not specialized in this field. Additionally, the paper is well written. There are some points which may be revised.

Thank you very much for your critical comments. We have revised the manuscript according to your comments as followings.

1. Please introduce examples of raw data for RT-PCR and immunofluorescence as figures if authors have.

Response:

We published the paper about CTC levels in patients with colorectal cancer undergoing laparoscopic surgery in 2004 (Chen et al. *World J Surg* 2004;28:552-7.). Due to lone time period, we do not have the original raw data to show here. And due to copyright issue, we could not put our previous published figures into our current manuscript. We are very sorry for this.

2. I think there are still lots of problems about detecting CTC cells in clinical routine. Because number of CTC are rate and it requires methods with high sensitivity and specificity. Authors

should write this issue in the paper. Additionally, if there are the expected resolution for this, please introduce this for readers.

Response:

We have discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the methods to detect CTC. We also added a table (Table 1) to summarize the advantages and disadvantages of the methods to detect CTC. We also introduced the resolution to improve CTC yield in the manuscript. (See page 7, 1st paragraph, line 1-17, and Table 1)


3. At the page 11-12, authors introduced their previous study. I think it is helpful for readers' better understanding to make some tables or figures.

Response:

We have added a table regarding the relationship between postoperative circulating free tumor cells and status of freedom from recurrence in patients of colorectal cancer undergoing laparoscopic surgery. (See page 11, 1st paragraph, line 5-13, and Table 2)

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wei-Shone Chen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wei-Shone Chen, M.D. Ph.D.

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