

Biostatistics statement

Title: Expression of circulating miR-20a and let-7a in esophageal squamous cell carcinoma

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The statistical data of this study were administrated and reviewed by the Institute of Clinical Medicine from the First Affiliated Hospital of Zhengzhou University. The statistical methods of this study were reviewed by Dr. Chongjian Wang from College of Public Health, Zhengzhou University. In this study, data were presented as means \pm standard deviation (SD) or median. The results were calculated with the Student's t-test, Mann-Whitney U test or Kruskal-Wallis test. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve and the area under the curve (AUC) were used to estimate the identified performance of biomarkers to distinguish the esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC) patients and the healthy controls. All statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 17.0, and results were considered significantly as $P < 0.05$.

The statistical techniques are suitable, and the statistical methods are adequately and appropriately described when they are used to verify the results.

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