

Dear Editor,

Thanks for the information and the “Minor Revision” decision. The authors thank the reviewer for appreciating the quality of our work and for his/her thoughtful comments. And we have made some modifications in current version according to the reviewer’s comments (highlighted in the manuscript).

The reviewer’s main issue is with the treatment of heterogeneity. As he/she said, there was no evidence of heterogeneity by any of the factors studied. However, there are two P value in the table (column 5&7). As we wrote in the method section, the inconsistency index( $I^2$ ) ranged from 0% to 100% was used to quantify the proportion of the total variation. A p-value (column 7) for the Q-test was presented to assess the heterogeneity among the studies. We chose the random-effects model (the DerSimonian and Laird method) when  $P < 0.10$ . Otherwise, the fixed-effects model (the Mantel-Haenszel method) was applied. The former P value (column 5) is used to demonstrate whether the hazard ratios (HRs) are statistically significant at each level as we discussed.

Thus, we think our study provides accurate information for the significance of Bcl-2 expression in colorectal cancer prognosis. Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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