

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 35245

Title: Right- and left-sided colorectal cancers respond differently to traditional Chinese medicine

Reviewer's code: 03494395

Reviewer's country: Taiwan

Science editor: Ke Chen

Date sent for review: 2017-08-08

Date reviewed: 2017-08-15

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a well organized retrospective, observational, cohort study. The methodology of the study is its major strength. Limitations of the study are very well presented and answered. The paper is well written and is based in a well-organized national database. The authors can cite the following papers: 1. Chang LC, Yu YL. Dietary components as epigenetic-regulating agents against cancer. *Biomedicine*. 2016;6:016-0002. 2. Chang WS, Liu LC, Hsiao CL, Su CH, Wang HC, Ji HX, et al. The contributions of the tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase-1 genotypes to triple negative breast cancer risk. *Biomedicine*. 2016;6:016-0004. 3. Chao PC, Chuang HJ, Tsao LY, Chen PY, Hsu CF, Lin HC, et al. The Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool (MUST) and a nutrition education program for high risk cancer patients: strategies to improve dietary intake in cancer patients. *Biomedicine*. 2015;5:015-0017. 4. Ho TF, Chang CC. A promising "TRAIL" of tanshinones for cancer therapy. *Biomedicine*. 2015;5:015-0023. 5. Lai SW, Liao KF. Body mass index



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and colorectal hyperplastic polyps. *Am J Gastroenterol*. 2013 Feb;108(2):280. doi: 10.1038/ajg.2012.376. 6. Lai SW, Liao KF, Lai HC, Lin CL, Sung FC. Use of proton pump inhibitors correlates with increased risk of colorectal cancer in Taiwan. *Asia Pac J Clin Oncol*. 2013 Jun;9(2):192-3. doi: 10.1111/ajco.12054. Epub 2013 Jan 8. 7. Lee MR, Lin C, Lu CC, Kuo SC, Tsao JW, Juan YN, et al. YC-1 induces G0/G1 phase arrest and mitochondria-dependent apoptosis in cisplatin-resistant human oral cancer CAR cells. *Biomedicine*. 2017;7:14. 8. Liao KF, Lai SW, Li CI. The impact of anti-diabetic drugs on colorectal cancer risk in a large cohort of women with diabetes. *Libyan J Med*. 2012;7:22. 9. Liu JC, Shen WC, Shih TC, Tsai CW, Chang WS, Cho Y, et al. The current progress and future prospects of personalized radiogenomic cancer study. *Biomedicine*. 2015;5:2. 10. Padma VV. An overview of targeted cancer therapy. *Biomedicine*. 2015;5:015-0019. 11. Yang MD, Lin KC, Lu MC, Jeng LB, Hsiao CL, Yueh TC, et al. Contribution of matrix metalloproteinases-1 genotypes to gastric cancer susceptibility in Taiwan. *Biomedicine*. 2017;7:14.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 35245

Title: Right- and left-sided colorectal cancers respond differently to traditional Chinese medicine

Reviewer's code: 03476648

Reviewer's country: Greece

Science editor: Ke Chen

Date sent for review: 2017-08-15

Date reviewed: 2017-08-19

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The present work by Liu et al describes the effect of traditional Chinese medicine as an adjuvant in the disease free survival of colorectal cancer patients bearing tumors in different sides. It seems that the primary research question, i.e. whether traditional Chinese medicine affects left or right sided tumors, is of less importance compared to whether traditional Chinese medicine has an effect on survival of colorectal cancer patients at all; this is not clear also from the literature. There are several limitations in this study. The traditional Chinese medicine that were administered are not described at all in terms of composition, dose, and frequency of administration. It is also rather difficult to imagine that all patients included in this study received the same controlled type and amount of treatment. Having said that, other factors also introduce intrinsic variability to this study. It is not clear if all patients enlisted in this study received the same chemotherapeutic agents (and/or radiotherapy). The patient cohort is comprised

by dissimilar disease stages. Thus the difference of survival can be attributed to a single or the combination of the abovementioned factors, rather the administration of Chinese traditional medicine. One way to control and correct for all these factors is to perform multivariate analysis. The authors did that, but have included histodifferentiation, lymph node metastasis and TNM stage in the same model. Most likely many of these variables are correlated and multicollinearity is introduced, which affects the prognostic performance of the model. Correction of P values for multiple testing should also have been performed. Additionally, the introductory section does not provide any useful information for the reader regarding the use of traditional Chinese medicine as an anticancer approach.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 35245

Title: Right- and left-sided colorectal cancers respond differently to traditional Chinese medicine

Reviewer's code: 03478911

Reviewer's country: South Korea

Science editor: Ke Chen

Date sent for review: 2017-08-18

Date reviewed: 2017-08-28

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
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		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors investigated the disease progression of colorectal cancer associated with traditional Chinese medicine. In order to confirm the various responses, the study was conducted by distinguishing between left-sided and right-sided colorectal cancer. Based on the results, patients were prolonged disease free survival regardless of disease site. However, there are only a few minor concerns that need to be solved. 1. There is no any information of the traditional Chinese medicine. Must the information of the drug product protect confidentially? 2. The authors should describe what criteria distinguish left- and right-sided colorectal cancer. 3. This reviewer suggests that the ambiguous sentence would be rewritten. ex) P.2, Line 45. 'patients with RSCC responded better to TCM.' What responded better to TCM in RSCC patients?