

Answering reviewers

August 15

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 4470-review.doc)

**Title:** Application of quantitative estimates of fecal hemoglobin concentration for risk prediction of colorectal neoplasia

**Author:** Chao-Sheng Liao, Yu-Min Lin, Hung-Chuen Chang, Yu-Hung Chen, Lee-Won Chong, Chun-Hao Chen, Yueh-Shih Lin, Kuo-Ching Yang, and Chia-Hui Shih

Manuscript Number: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

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

**We have modified the manuscript accordingly. The detailed corrections are listed below point by point.**

(1) In my opinion, the major pitfall of this study is the lack of data regarding life styles, BMI, and family history of CRC that have a strong effect on the CRC risk.

**Answer: We appreciate for the comment. So far, we don't have the data of these critical factors. We have explained the limitations in the discussion section.**

(2) I strongly recommend authors to better explain what is reported in Table2, Figure2 (x-axis and y-axis), Figure3 (3b, x-axis and y-axis) and Figure4.

**Answer: We have revised the tables and figures carefully that can be understood by the journal's readership without difficulty.**

(3) Both in the results section and in the abstract, the authors should state the number of false positive fecal immuno-chemical tests.

**Answer: The number of false positive was 23. We have provided the data in the results section and abstract.**

(4) Introduction: Page 3, second paragraph: The phrase "A study by Chen et al. suggested baseline FIT concentration ..." should be more elaborated. It is hard to understand how a baseline FIT concentration can be used to predict incidence colorectal neoplasia in people with a "negative" FIT. Please explain in more details.

Answer: We have strictly reviewed Prof. Chen's study and explained in more details in the introduction section.

(5) Results: Page 5, Baseline characteristics ...: In this paragraph you describe an adenoma detection rate of 38.2 % corresponding to 469 adenomas. In the paragraph Age, gender, and FIT in association with histologic grade of colorectal tumors you describe altogether 422 adenomas. Please explain this discrepancy.

Answer: We have corrected the ADR as 35.7%. The ADR was calculated as:  $221(\text{adenoma}) + 201(\text{advanced adenoma}) / 1181 (\text{no. of colonoscopies}) - \text{no. of cancers} (48)$ .

(6) Table 1: The polyp detection rate should be listed in Table 1.

Answer: We have added the polyp detection rate in Table 1.

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

Sincerely yours,



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