

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

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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: $221(\text{adenoma}) + 201(\text{advanced adenoma}) / 1181 (\text{no. of colonoscopies (1229)} - \text{no. of cancers (48)})$.

(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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