

Responding to reviewers' comments

Reviewer #1

The manuscript "Association of interleukin-10 polymorphisms with irritable bowel syndrome risk: a meta-analysis" deals with the important topic related to the association between single nucleotide polymorphisms of genes coding for inflammation-linked factors with pathogenesis of chronic inflammatory diseases such as IBS. Although the topic is of interest, there are major concerns that deserve implementing work in order to potentially make the manuscript of greater interest: 1) English editing must be deeply revised since often understanding the meaning of the sentences is really difficult; 2) The level of novelty is poor. It would be appropriate to search for associations between the IL-10 SNPs and other disease-related aspects (i.e., the presence and frequency of extra-intestinal signs of disease).

Response: -Thank you for the critical comment. First, we resorted to the professional English editing company (<http://www.editage.cn/>), and they help us to modify the whole manuscript. Second, this study was focus on the association between IL-10 polymorphism and irritable bowel syndrome risk. Although not so novel, we believe that this study was still important, because it provided a higher level of evidence to reveal the correlation between the two. And we are going to do some work to reveal the relationship between the IL-10 SNPs and other disease-related aspects. We thank you again for your expert advice.

Reviewer #2

This meta-analysis deals with an important topic, i.e. The associations between interleukin-10 (IL-10) polymorphisms and the risk of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). The Authors searched different databases such as PubMed, Embase and Cochrane. Results suggest that IL-10 rs1800870 is conferred susceptibility to the risk of IBS in Caucasian ethnicity, and the rs1800872 may associate with IBS risk in Asians. The work is well-performed. I would like that the Author extend their search to August 2013, in order to not miss relevant papers that have been eventually published in the meantime.

Response: - We are highly grateful for your invaluable comments. We extended our search to August 2013 in the revised manuscript, but no new studies were found. (Letter were marked in red)