

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

September 11, 2013

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 4934-review.doc).

Title: Primary adenosquamous carcinoma of the esophagus

Author: Shao-bin Chen, Hong-rui Weng, Geng Wang, Jie-sheng Yang, Wei-ping Yang, Di-tian Liu, Yu-ping Chen, Hao Zhang

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 4934

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) Reviewer: 02446368

Comments to Authors:

Chen SB et al investigated the clinical characteristics, diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis of 37 cases ASC of the esophagus from 4015 esophageal carcinoma patients received surgical resection between January 1995 and June 2012. They concluded that prognosis of EASC is poorer than ESCC. The paper is interesting for Gastroenterologist. The authors tried to fulfill the criteria for good publication.

Response: Thank you very much for your favorable evaluation.

(2) Reviewer: 02546506

Comments to Authors:

This is a well written and thorough coverage of this important topic, I have a few recommendations however:

1、 There are several grammatical errors in the paper.

Response: Our article has been edited by the American Journal Experts English language editing companies.

2、 ASC of the esophagus is a rare subtype of esophageal cancer containing coexisting elements of infiltrating AC and SCC. The clinicopathological characters and overall survival of ASC and SCC were compared in this manuscript, the clinicopathological characters and overall survival of ASC and AC should also be compared.

Response: Thank you very much for your comments. We quite agree with your suggestion that the clinicopathological characters and overall survival of ASC and AC should also be compared in this manuscript. But there were only 13 patients with esophageal AC in our study cohort. The number of esophageal AC patients was too small to compare the clinicopathological characters and overall survival of these patients with other groups.

3、 in this manuscript, 3785 of the 4015 esophageal carcinoma patients were histologically diagnosed as SCC. Of these patients, 346 patients were received neoadjuvant therapy. However, in the 37 ASC patients, there was no patient received neoadjuvant therapy. Why? It is a coincidence or there are other reasons?

Response: Thank you very much for your comments. We think that the following reasons may be contributed to this finding. Firstly, ASC is an uncommon malignant esophageal neoplasm, which accounting for only 0.92% of all cases of primary esophageal carcinoma in our study. Secondly, the low rate of esophageal cancer patients received neoadjuvant therapy in this study cohort (about 9.1%, 346/3785). Thirdly, esophageal ASC is prone to be misdiagnosed by endoscopic biopsy preoperatively. None of the 24 patients underwent esophagoscopy biopsy before surgery were diagnosed as ASC. Pathologic examination of the specimens after neoadjuvant therapy may be difficult, particularly if there has been a good response.

4、 "In multivariate analysis, only adjuvant radiotherapy ($P=0.028$) was found to be independently prognostic factors." The radiotherapy was selected randomize or according some criteria? It is very important and should be emphasized in the manuscript.

Response: Adjuvant therapies were still controversial for esophageal cancer patients with R0 resection. According to our own experience, adjuvant therapies would be recommended to patients with locally advanced tumor or mediastinal lymph node metastases. But not all patients would comply with this suggestion. Some patients refused to do this, and some had economic reason or others were medically unfit for adjuvant therapy. We have added this in our revised manuscript.

5、 in this manuscript, The overall survival of ASC and SCC were compared. One patient was lost to follow-up (2.7%) in the ASC group. How about the follow-up rate of the SCC group? It is very important and should be emphasized in the manuscript.

Response: One hundred and twenty patients of the 3439 esophageal SCC patients who did not receive neoadjuvant therapy were lost to follow-up (3.5%). We have added this in our revised manuscript.

Pending these major and minor revisions I would recommend this paper for publication.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

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