

Response to reviewers' comments

October 19, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5278-review.doc).

Title: Meta-analysis comparing ESD and EMR for superficial esophageal cancer

Author: Hui-Min Guo, Xiao-Qi Zhang, Min Chen, Shu-Ling Huang, Xiao-Ping Zou

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5278

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) **Review 1: The 3 abstracts that are listed in Table 1 as references 15-17 are not the references listed in the References section, and in fact do not appear to be listed at all. This makes it difficult to follow the paper.**

Answer: Thank you for the reminder. We have corrected the 3 references 15-17 exactly as you suggested. Please refer to references 15, 16 and 17 of Pg 12 for the modifications.

- (2) **Review 2: The forest plots and a summary receiver operating characteristic curve (SROC) are very important, especially in the meta-analysis study. For this reason, please clarify the importance of these two methods in the Statistical Analysis section and, at the very least, a significant comparison should be provided simultaneously.**

Answer: Thank you for the inspiring comments. SROC analysis is a valuable tool to evaluate diagnostic tests and predictive models, which may be used to assess accuracy quantitatively or to compare accuracy between tests or predictive models. And forest plots are graphical representations of studies included in the meta-analysis, which can present the mean effect estimate and the weight for the study. The differences between these two methods mainly lie in that ROC analysis can be used to select the optimal threshold under a variety of clinical circumstances, therefore showing an optimum cut-off for sensitivity and specificity, while Forest plot provides the summary data entered for each study including the weight for each study, the overall effect estimate, and the statistical significance of the analysis. Since the primary purpose of current study was to compare the effectiveness of two different therapeutic methods for superficial esophageal cancer, it should be more appropriate to apply forest plot for the statistical analysis. We have added the comparison of these two methods in the Statistical Analysis section. Please refer to Ln 3-10 of Pg 6 for the modifications.

3 References and typesetting were corrected.

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

Sincerely yours,

Huimin Guo

Hui-Min Guo, PhD

Department of Gastroenterology

the Affiliated Drum Tower Hospital of Nanjing University Medical School

321 Zhongshan Road, Nanjing

Jiangsu Province, China

Fax: +86-025-83105321

E-mail: zouxiaoping795@hotmail.com

Department of Gastroenterology, the Affiliated Drum Tower Hospital of Nanjing University

Medical School, 321 Zhongshan Road, Nanjing 210008, Jiangsu Province, China