

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

August 25, 2012



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5368-review.doc).

Title: Tumor necrosis factor alpha-308 Polymorphism and Digestive system cancers Risk:
A Meta-analysis

Author: Xu-Feng Guo, Jun Wang, Shi-Jie Yu, Jia Song, Meng-Yao Ji, Zhuo Cao, Ji-Xiang Zhang, Jing Wang, Wei-Guo Dong

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5368

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 # 00053441:** The manuscript by Guo et al presents a metanalysis study over the influence of polymorphism of TNF-alfa and digestive cancer. The manuscript is well written and interesting, especially because it is the first meta-analysis study on the subject. My only concern regards the comparison between Asian and Caucasian populations. In my opinion no conclusions can be established with a 95% CI of 0.99 to 1.56.

Reply to the concern of Reviewer # 00053441: The result(95% CI: 0.99-1.56;p>0.05) showed no association between TNF-alfa polymorphism and digestive cancer in Asian populations and there was no statistical significance. But in Caucasian populations, there was a obvious statistical significance(95% CI:1.05-1.40 ;p<0.05). So I think the conclusions

in the paper is reasonable.

(2)_**Reviewer # 00052339:** The TNF-Alpha-308 Polymorphism and Digestive system cancers Risk: A Meta-analysis Xu-feng Guo¹, Jun Wang¹, Shi-jie Yu, Jia Song, Meng-yao Ji, Zhuo Cao, Ji-xiang Zhang, Jing Wang, Weiguo Dong Reviewer's comments: This paper showed the TNF-a-380 polymorphism associated with gastrointestinal cancer by meta-analysis and that polymorphism with GA or GA+AA had a higher cancer risk. Most of data shown here are acceptable, but there are some unclear parts in this paper. Minor points: #1 In Table2, colorectal cancer showed statistically significance in 3 out of 4 comparison with p-value from <0.0001~0.02 and 0.07 even in AA vs. GA+GG. This is a little strange because all 4 comparisons showed the association between cancer risk and the polymorphism. #2 In table1, data shown by Garzra-Gonzales[12] is so different to others, that is, population with heterogeneity of AA is very high. Is this true?

Firstly, the p-value in Table 2 is for heterogeneity test. When p was <0.05, random-effects model was used, otherwise fixed-effects model was used. And the pooled-OR for colorectal cancer is 1.17(95%CI:0.87-1.57). It shows that p-value is >0.05. So there is no association between TNF-alfa polymorphism and colorectal cancer risk.

Secondly, I check the research by Garzra-Gonzales[12] carefully. Data from this paper is different to others' indeed. Maybe there are ethnic differences in Mexican population.

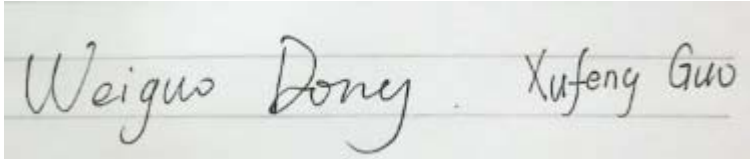
(3)_**Reviewer #00051227:** Based on meta-analysis of 55 publication with 9986 patients with cancer and 15511 healthy controls, authors conclude that TNF- α -308 polymorphism is associated with the risk of gastric and hepatocellular carcinoma, but not colorectal, pancreatic and esophageal cancers. This paper is well written and reports a potentially interesting and an important study, however there are many errors in the text like : thecarcinogenesis, severalpolymorphism s....

There may be some unknown reason, so the spelling errors exist in the text. I am very sorry about that. I have correct the spelling mistakes in the text. Thanks for your comments.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

A photograph of a handwritten signature on lined paper. The signature is written in cursive and consists of two names: 'Weiguo Dong' followed by a period, and then 'Xufeng Guo'.

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