

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

January 8, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name 579-For revision_20121228 .doc).

Title: Colorectal cancer mortality in Hong Kong of China, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore

Authors: Aesun Shin, Kyu Won Jung, Young-Joo Won

Manuscript No: 579

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

Editorial comments

- 1) The professional title and full telephone and FAX numbers of the corresponding author have been provided.
- 2) The abstract has been revised as a structured abstract.
- 3) Three more key words were added.
- 4) Reference format has been changed throughout the manuscript.
- 5) Two more references were added and referred in the text.
- 6) Format of the Figure 1 was corrected.
- 7) Table 2 and Table 3 were combined in the revised version.
- 8) COMMENTS have been added.

Reviewer 1

1) Fig 1 and Table 1 titles refer to Age-standardised or age-adjusted mortality rates per 100,000 and this should be corrected to Year-standardised mortality rates.

→ Authors: The World Standard Population was used as a standard population for all analyses, therefore age-standardized rate is correct term. The title of the Table 1 was corrected properly.

2) Fig 1. It is unclear which symbols represent each country group. Define the symbols together with “lines” used in the figure legend.

→ Authors: Legend for symbols was added.

3) Table 2 and 3. Define APC and what the asterisks (*) stand for.

→ Authors: Definitions were added in Table 2

Reviewer 2

1) It would be better if the mortality data is presented with the corresponding incidence rates of colorectal cancer during same time period.

This will allow the reader a better understanding of the trends. This would also justify the discussion which is

mainly based on risk factors and incidence of colorectal cancer in the mentioned regions.

→ Authors: The WHO mortality database which we used for the current manuscript did not have cancer incidence information. We think including colorectal cancer incidence data is out of scope of the current manuscript.

2) Authors have mentioned that there is no Colorectal Cancer screening programme in Singapore, this needs to be verified.

→ Currently there is no national screening program for colorectal cancer available in Singapore, although participation rate for opportunistic screening for colorectal cancer is reasonably high.

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

Sincerely yours,

Kyu Won Jung

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kyuwon Jung'.

Branch Chief
Cancer Registration and Statistics Branch
National Cancer Center
Korea