

**Dear Editors:**

Re: manuscript ID 61101

We are grateful to you and reviewers. Thank you very much for your consideration of the possibility to publish our manuscript. As soon as receiving the comments, we have a meeting with all the authors. Finally, we have revised our manuscript carefully according to the reviewer's helpful comments and useful suggestions. The details of the changes that have been made are as followed as below.

**Comments to Authors**

**1. The manuscript requires a minor editing. Some minor language polishing should be corrected.**

*Answer:*

Thanks for the useful suggestion.

Highly qualified native English speaking editors at AJE have edited the manuscript to meet the direct publishing needs. A language editing certificate issued by AJE was provided. This certificate may be verified on the AJE website using the verification code EA51-55EE-0FAE-BF9C-ACE9. We have uploaded the certificate though the F6Publishing system. Hope the response satisfies you.

**2. Figures are informative, however, the images are too small. Please check and update.**

*Answer:*

Thanks for the useful suggestion.

There are six figures in our manuscript. Each figure is 300 dpi. We have organize them into a single PowerPoint file named "61101-Figures.ppt", which was uploaded to the file destination of "Image File". All the original figures with 300 dpi in the Tiff format have also been uploaded the "Supplementary Material" section. Hope the response satisfies you.

**3. In the tables, please delete the frames which mean no data.**

*Answer:*

Thanks for the useful suggestion.

The raw manuscript had three tables. Table 2 and Table 3 were univariate analyses and multivariate Cox regression model analyses of overall survival and cause-specific survival, respectively. So, there were some frames with no data in the multivariate analysis section. Univariate analyses and multivariate analysis were separate into two tables in the revised manuscript. Table 2 in the raw manuscript was divided into Table 2 (Univariate analyses of overall survival) and Table 3 (Multivariate Cox regression model analyses of overall survival). Table 3 in the raw manuscript was divided into Table 4 (Univariate analyses of cause-specific survival) and Table 5 (Multivariate Cox regression model analyses of cause-specific survival). Table 1 which was the characteristics and survival rate remained unchanged. So, there were five tables in the revised manuscript, which were organized into a single Word file named “61101-Tables.docx” and uploaded to the file destination of “Table File”. Hope the response satisfies you.

**4. References are updated.**

*Answer:*

Thanks for the useful suggestion.

We have revised and updated the references according to the guidelines. We have deleted the repeat references, listed all authors of the references, and added the PMID and DOI numbers. Besides, we have edited the references using the reference auto-analyser through the F6Publishing system. Hope the response satisfies you.

I’m looking forward to hearing your decision soon. Thank you again.

Yours sincerely,

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