

January 19, 2021

Dear Editors and Reviewers,

Re: Manuscript No. 61159.

Thank you for your letter and the reviewers' comments concerning our manuscript entitled **“Risk factors for lymph node metastasis in T1 esophageal squamous cell carcinoma: A systematic review and meta-analysis”**. We have carefully reviewed the comments, revised the manuscript accordingly and uploaded the requested files. We have tried our best to improve the manuscript but these changes did not influence the content and framework of the paper. We appreciate the editors' and reviewers' warm and earnest work. We hope that the current version of the manuscript meets the requirement for publication.

Sincerely,

Kai-Yuan Jiang, MD

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## **Response reviewer' comments**

### **Reviewer's comments**

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: The title reflects the subject of the study. This manuscript presents a clear and clinically useful message. It is well written in terms of clarity, style, and use of English language. Materials and methods are sufficiently detailed. The discussion section explains adequately the purpose of this study in the context of published information. The conclusions accurately and clearly explain the main results. The length of the manuscript is ideal. All tables and figures are of good quality and relevant to the subject. All references are appropriate and current.

### **Response:**

Thanks for the reviewer's great appreciation. There are no specific issues that need to be revised or elaborated. We have also checked and revised the structure, grammar and logic of the manuscript several times to improve the quality of the manuscript as best as we can.

## **Response editorial office's comments**

### **Science editor's comments:**

Issues raised: (1) The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor. And (2) The “Article Highlights” section is missing. Please add the “Article Highlights” section at the end of the main text.

### **Response:**

Thanks for the editor's comments. (1) We have provided original pictures and charts in the uploaded files “61159-Figures.ppt” and “61159-Tables.docx”, respectively, please check. (2) We are so sorry for missing the “Article Highlights”. We have added this part at the end of the main text.

### **Company editor-in-chief's comments:**

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Gastroenterology, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors.

### **Response:**

Thanks for the chief's comments. We have checked and revised the manuscript according to reviewers' comments. Meanwhile, the missing “Article Highlights” of the manuscript have been added and all required accompanying documents have been uploaded to the F6Publishing system. We hope that the current manuscript meets the requirement for publication.