

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

Manuscript NO: 79469

Title: Prognostic role of pretreatment serum ferritin concentration in lung cancer patients: a meta-analysis

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05625728

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-23

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-08-23 14:09

Reviewer performed review: 2022-08-28 06:50

Review time: 4 Days and 16 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this paper, the authors investigated the prognostic value of pretreatment SFC in lung cancer patients. A total of 12 retrospective studies involving 1654 patients were included in this analysis. The results showed Pretreatment SFC might serve as a promising prognostic indicator in lung cancer patients and elevated pretreatment SFC predicts worse prognosis. I have a few comments which I think will improve the paper. Quality assessment section 'Besides, the literature search, selection, data extraction and quality assessment were all conducted by two authors independently and any disagreement was resolved by team discussion.' Disagreements about whether a study should be included or quality assessment can generally be resolved by discussion. Often the cause of disagreement is a simple oversight on the part of one of the review authors. However, I wonder how the authors will solve the disagreement due to a difference in interpretation (this may require arbitration by another person) since there is only two authors in this systematic review. You should provide detail about the NOS scale and cite the references. You can improve Table 1 by adding the detailed score of each section (Selection, Comparability, Exposure/outcomes) to make it more transparent. Results: Something is missing in Figure 1. A total of 978 records were identified through database searching. However, there are still 181 records in the selection process after excluding 797 duplicate records.

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05851920

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Academic Research, Research Assistant, Staff Physician, Surgeon

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-23

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-10-06 14:41

Reviewer performed review: 2022-10-06 17:05

Review time: 2 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Peer-reviewer
statements**

Peer-Review: [☐] Anonymous [☒] Onymous
Conflicts-of-Interest: [☐] Yes [☒] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review the manuscript of Yang Gao and Jintong Ge entitled "Prognostic role of pretreatment serum ferritin concentration in lung cancer patients: a meta-analysis". The authors performed a meta-analysis including 12 retrospective papers about the prognostic value of pretreatment SFC in lung cancer patients based on current evidence. The pooled results manifested that increased pretreatment SFC was significantly associated with worse OS (HR=1.09, 95% CI: 1.03-1.15, P=0.004). After a quick review of the literature, there are different papers about the prognostic value of pretreatment SFC in lung cancer patients. Thus, it is very interesting the meta-analysis proposed by the authors. But, it is difficult to understand the meaning of the subgroup analysis based on the country (China vs non-China) they performed. The manuscript is written well enough, and the English language should be verified just only for minor spelling and grammar mistakes.

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Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05827902

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: FACC, MD

Professional title: Assistant Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-23

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-10-10 16:42

Reviewer performed review: 2022-10-10 17:06

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors present a meta-analysis of several retrospective studies that connect increased pretreatment SFC levels to prognosis in lung cancer patients. The article is well written and presented well. The authors have identified the limitations of the study (mainly retrospective data) well. Overall SFC appears to be a non-specific marker that is elevated in many malignancies and in other conditions as well. Further studies are needed to exactly delineate the role of SFC in these conditions.