

Dear Respected Editors,

We would like to thank you for giving us a chance to resubmit the manuscript. We would also like to thank the reviewers for the constructive suggestions which allowed us to further improve the quality of our paper. We hereby submit a revision version of our manuscript entitled “Diagnostic and economic value of CEA, CA19-9 and CA72-4 in gastrointestinal cancers”. A summarized point-by-point response to the comments are listed below.

If you have any question regarding this paper, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

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Response to reviewers' comments

(The reviewers' comments are indicated in red.)

Reviewer 1:

1. Great large scale study of biomarkers classically used in medical care all over the world!

Response: We are very grateful for your affirmation of the real world research in a larger scale.

Reviewer 2:

1. INTRODUCTION - The sentence "This study included more than 32,000 subjects who received CEA, CA19-9, CA72-4, gastroscopy and colonoscopy assessments." does not belong to the introduction. It is more suitable as the first sentence of the Discussion. **Response:** Thanks for your guidance on the structure of the article. We have adjusted it to the first sentence of the Discussion.

2. METHODS - I acknowledge the sentence "We retrospectively analyzed all patients who met the inclusion criteria from October 2006 to May 2018." However, it is not clear to the reader which were the inclusion criteria. Please reword the paragraph.

Response: We have revised the statement of inclusion criteria to make it clearer. "The inclusion criteria included: (1) patients from the medical examination center, outpatient department or inpatient department of Zhongshan Hospital of Fudan University and (2) patients had completed all five examinations, namely, CEA, CA19-9, CA72-4, gastroscopy and colonoscopy, within half a year."

3. It is not fully clear what the sentence "patients with previous malignant tumors who had been treated" really means. Were patients excluded base on any history of previous cancer? If so, it should be better specified. As it stands, it is not clear based on which kind of treatment patients were excluded (i.e.? oncological, surgical, both).

Response: We have modified the expression of exclusion criteria to eliminate

ambiguity. “The exclusion criteria were as follows: (1) duplicate patients and (2) patients who had accepted anti-tumor therapies such as radiotherapy, chemotherapy or surgery.”

4. RESULTS - Please revert the order of the two columns in Table 4 (i.e. correlation coeff. first, then p-values).

Response: We are very grateful for your expert and insightful advice. So we have reverted the order of the two columns in Table 4.

Response to editors

1. Authors are requested to send their revised manuscript to a professional English language editing company or a native English-speaking expert to polish the manuscript further. When the authors submit the subsequent polished manuscript to us, they must provide a new language certificate along with the manuscript.

Response: We have provided a new language certificate along with the manuscript.

2. ABBREVIATIONS: In general, do not use non-standard abbreviations, unless they appear at least two times in the text preceding the first usage/definition.

Response: We have carefully checked the abbreviations of articles according to the rules to meet the requirements.

3. All authors should accept and sign the Copyright License Agreement (CLA), following the link sent in individual emails to each author.

Response: All authors have signed the CLA except Yan-Jie Chen, who failed to visit the link via her e-mail. She have already had complete acquaintance to relevant contents, including the information of the manuscript, the Copyright License Agreement and the publishing fee statement issue.