

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



Feb 20, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 9050-edited.doc).

Title: The role of Notch signaling pathway in gastric cancer: A meta-analysis of the literature

Author: Xiao Du, Zhong Cheng, Yi-Han Wang, Zi-Heng Guo, Si-Qin Zhang, Jian-Kun Hu, Zong-Guang Zhou

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9050

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) I think this study is valuable because meta-analysis on Notch signaling pathway is rare. However, author showed only one Forest Plot of Notch 1 (Figure 2). Please show the other forest plots of Notch 2, Notch3, Jagged1, Jagged2, DLL4, and Hes1.

Answer: We have showed the forest plots of Jagged1, DLL4 and Hes1 (seen in Figure S1, Figure S2 and Figure S3), other forest plots of components cannot be showed due to only 1 study concerned about Notch2, Notch3, Jagged2, and DLL1.

(2) In this manuscript entitled "The role of Notch signaling pathway in gastric cancer: A meta-analysis of the literature", the authors perform a meta-analysis of the association between Notch and gastric cancer. This is the paper cutting edge in Notch signaling pathway in gastric cancer, which will provide great interest to readers of World Journal of Gastroenterology. I have still have several minor comments as follows. ?Notch and Wnt signaling seem to cooperate in intestinal tumorigenesis and have been shown to play critical roles in the regulation of development and diseases. Authors should have included Wnt signaling in this paper. ?I have found some papers including the following paper regarding DLL4. Why did the authors miss these papers. J Exp Clin Cancer Res. 2013 Jul 30;32:46. Clinical implications of DLL4 expression in gastric cancer. ?In Discussion, the authors described that rapid growing number of related outcomes (Notch signaling pathway and gastric cancer) has created but conclusions remain controversial[8,13,19]. In facts, the outcomes of ref 19 showed different result from others. The authors should give some comments for this controversy.

Answer: 1. Although Notch and Wnt signaling had some intrinsic links, but this paper only focused on the relationship between Notch signaling pathway and gastric cancer, so we didn't include the Wnt signaling.

2. We have added the paper "Clinical implications of DLL4 expression in gastric cancer", and make related changes in the paper. We feel so sorry about this mistake.

3. We have added the comments for the controversy in the paper.

(3) Du et al. in their manuscript entitled "The role of Notch signaling pathway in gastric cancer: A meta-analysis of the literature" perform a meta-analysis of the association between Notch and gastric cancer. This is a rigorous and thorough report. Overall, I think it is clearly stated and adds important information.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

Xiao Du

Department of Gastrointestinal Surgery,
West China Hospital, Sichuan University,
No. 37, Guo Xue Xiang,
Chengdu 610041, P. R. China