

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

October 25, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 14119-review.doc).

Title: Carbohydrate antigen 19-9 as a biomarker for differential diagnosis of pancreatic carcinoma and chronic pancreatitis: A systematic review

Author: Si-Biao Su, Shan-Yu Qin, Wen Chen, Wei Luo and Hai-Xing Jiang

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 14119

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) G Abstract: The χ^2 and P values should not be present without interpretation, which may mislead the readers.

Answer: We have deleted the χ^2 and P values in the “Abstract” according your suggestion.

(2) Search strategy: the search time should be more detailed (month), which represents repeatability of the search. The search terms are not complete, such as “tumor”. In addition, what are the search method, free text or MeSH?

Answer: We are so sorry that we forgot to add the search time (month) in paper, and we have revised now. By the way, pancreatic tumor should included pancreatic cancer/carcinoma (malignancy) and pancreatic adenoma (benign), and we just studied the malignancy disease in the study. We searched relevant studies all in MeSH method.

(3) Inclusion criteria: patients are diagnosed with chronic pancreatitis based on clinical information alone or in combination with histopathological resection, radiology (endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography, computed tomography) and/or endoscopic ultrasonography. If the diagnosis of chronic pancreatitis is based on clinical information alone or in combination with radiology, whether follow-up is performed? If not, the reference test is not suitable.

Answer: Actually, patients those diagnosed with chronic pancreatitis based on clinical information alone were hardly any, and all of them were performed follow-up in clinical treatment in the including studies.

(4) Data extraction: “Serum CA19-9 values provided in scatter plots were extracted by placing scalar grids over the plots” This method is scientific? Please provide the reference.

Answer: Yes, this method is scientific. It was widely used in the diagnostic assessment and meta-analysis.

(5) Statistical analysis: Please clarify the P value of statistical analysis.

Answer: We have revised that according your suggestion.

(6)Results (Diagnostic accuracy): “These variations in sensitivity and specificity with CA19-9 assay and cut-off value did not achieve statistical significance ($P>0.05$, Table 4), suggesting that a higher cut-off value such as 100 U/ml may increase the specificity for differential diagnosis of pancreatic carcinoma” This sentence is not suitable.

Answer: We have revised this like that“..., suggesting that the more high cut-off value such as 100 U/ml may better increase the specificity for differential diagnosis of pancreatic carcinoma.”

(7)Discussion: the authors did not analyze the factors which may cause bias based on the results, and did not compare with the results of other studies. Additionally, “Second, non-random misclassification bias may have occurred given that different studies used different approaches to diagnose chronic pancreatitis, including histology of pancreatic tissue, radiology, endoscopic ultrasonography and/or clinical information alone.” Based on table 2, reference of PC all included studies is histology or cytology, which is not consistent with “radiology, endoscopic ultrasonography and/or clinical information alone”

Answer: We are so ashamed for these defections you had mentioned. However, we also defected those data in data extraction, and we will make more attentions in similar problems in future studies. Thanks for your suggestions.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

susibiao

Su SiBiao, MD,
Department of Gastroenterology,
The First Affiliated Hospital of Guangxi Medical University,
Nanning 530021,
Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region,
China
Fax: +86-771-5356725
E-mail: susibiao@163.com