

March 10, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name:8221-revision.doc)

**Title:** Dairy product consumption and gastric cancer risk: a meta-analysis

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**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**Emsp Manuscript No:**8221

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

1 Format has been updated.

2. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer (No 00053727)

We checked the data of this work again, and found the results consistent with the before.

3. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer (No 00224495)

(1) According to the advice of professional English language editing company (American Journal Experts), we changed the title to “Dairy product consumption and gastric cancer risk: a meta-analysis”.

(2) In this study, we presented the data to analysis the association between dairy product consumption and gastric cancer risk. I think this study published in article is more suitable, rather than as a review article.

(3) There is no clear definition of indentifying high prevalence rates countries with low prevalence rates countries. In addition, prevalence rates of one country can change over time. I think if we subgroup analysis performed by countries with high and low prevalence rates, which may lead to a controversial or inaccurate result. I found many meta-analysis studies which reported the association between diet and cancer, conducted a subgroup analysis by geographic region.(eg Dairy consumption and risk of breast cancer by Jia-Yi Dong; Soy intake is associated with lower lung cancer risk by Wan-Shui Yang; Consumption of large amounts of vegetables reduces risk for gastric cancer in a meta-analysis by Yong Zhou, The association of tea consumption with bladder cancer risk: a meta-analysis by Shihao Wu, and so on).

**4.** Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer (No 02454124)

(1) According to your suggestion, we added one database (Web of Science).

(2) We added the process of selecting studies (Figure.1) and one sentence:

Result: 1<sup>th</sup> paragraph first sentence.

(3) We added the quality assessment of this study (Table3 and Table4).

We also added two paragraphs to explain the details of quality assessment (Material and methods: 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph; Result: 2<sup>th</sup> paragraph).

(4) The quality assessment used for a sensitivity analysis, we added one sentence: Result: 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph second sentence.

(5) We removed the mixing results coming from case-control and cohort studies: Result: 9<sup>th</sup> paragraph (removed the second sentence to the fourth sentence)

Because gastric cancer risk is relatively low in the general population, ORs from case-control studies were assumed to be the same as RRs and HRs, in our research we report all results as RR for simplicity.

**5.** Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer (No 01550345):

(1) We added one sentence which included data to explain the association between gastric cancer risk and dairy product consumption. (Discussion: 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph and third sentence)

(2) In this study we found that the SRR for gastric cancer by the highest versus lowest dairy product consumption category was 1.06 (95%CI: 0.95-1.18). The result SRR 1.06 is very close to 1, which may be associated with

(a) Ten publications were excluded because they did not provide 95%CI.

The exclusion of those studies reduced the study population, which may have affected our result. (we described in Discussion 1<sup>th</sup> paragraph and last sentence) (b) The majority of studies reported in this meta-analysis utilized a case-control design, which is more susceptible to recall and selection biases than a cohort design. Few studies were designed to investigate the risk of gastric cancer from dairy product consumption. Studies included in our meta-analysis were only conducted in America, Europe, and Asia, which limited the findings to the studies populations. The above content may be affected the result. ( we described in Discussion 9<sup>th</sup> paragraph)

**Our manuscript has been edited by professional English language editing company (American Journal Experts).**

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

Sincerely yours,

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