

June 12, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 3213-review.doc).

**Title:** Relationship between apolipoprotein E gene polymorphism and total cholesterol level in patients with kidney diseases

**Author:** Tian-Biao Zhou, Zong-Pei Jiang, Sheng-Sheng Yin, Yuan-Han Qin

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 3213

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

**Reviewer 1**

Response to the reviewer's comments

1. Authors need to state which comparisons were studies that were more than ten and which were less than ten.

Response: We have added them in the revised manuscript. Thank you very much for your suggestion!

2. "The increased level of TC might be an important risk factor for the onset of renal diseases" should be revised as "Raised TC is a consequence of kidney disease but may accelerate progression to end-stage kidney disease".

Response: We have revised it. Thank you very much for your correction.

Addition: Thank you very much for your correction throughout the full-text. Many

thanks! We have also carefully checked and corrected them.

## **Reviewer 2**

Response to the reviewer's comments

Authors Manuscript review-ESPS Manuscript NO: 3213 Title: A meta-analysis of the relationship between apolipoprotein E gene polymorphism with total cholesterol level in patients with renal diseases Drs Zhou, et al. performed a meta-analysis to investigate the relationship between apolipoprotein E (apoE) gene polymorphism and total cholesterol (TC) level in patients with renal diseases. According to their predefined selection criteria, 22 studies were included in the meta-analysis, and patients with different apoE gene polymorphism were compared for the TC level. The authors concluded that apoE gene polymorphism was related to the TC level, but more studies are warranted. The paper is interesting, but several issues needs to be addressed.

1. The academic English writing should be urgently improved, or should be under a native English writing editing.

Response: Thank you very much for your comments. In the past weeks, we have carefully revised the English writing. Thank you very much!

2. The paper pages should be numbered.

Response: Thank you very much for your comment. We have numbered the paper pages in the revision.

3. Abstract: the Aim of this study should be more concise; however, the Method should be relatively detailed, including the database you searched, inclusion criteria, etc.; in the Results section, the pooled mean difference, and P value should be list. Based on the meta-analysis, could the authors obtain a more specific Conclusion?

Response: ①In Aim, we have deleted the “Apolipoprotein E (apoE), one of the major plasma lipoproteins, plays a major role in the transport and metabolism of lipids by acting as a ligand”, and “As no meta-analysis to evaluate the association of apoE gene

polymorphism with total cholesterol level in patients with renal diseases exists”.

②In Method, we have added the database you searched, inclusion criteria, etc.

③In the Results section, we have added the pooled mean difference, and P value in the revised manuscript.

④We have drawn a more specific Conclusion in the revision (Subjects with apoE E3E4 and ε4 had a higher TC level, and subjects with apoE E2E3 and ε2 had a higher TC level in patients with kidney disease).

4. The Introduction section, the molecular and potentially clinical role of apoE polymorphism was introduced, and the purpose of this meta-analysis was presented.

Response: Thank you very much for your suggestions. We have added molecular and potentially clinical role of apoE polymorphism in the third paragraph of the Introduction section, and added the purpose of this meta-analysis in the forth paragraph of the Introduction section.

5. Material and Method section, the inclusion criteria should include Study type, Patients of interest, Comparisons, and Outcomes (Observation variables).

Response: We found that it might be well to add them in “Data extraction and synthesis”. So, we have added them in the revised manuscript. Thank you very much for your suggestions.

6. Results section: a flow diagram of studies selection should be added, a methodological quality assessment of included studies should be presented.

Response: We have added a flow diagram and added the methodological quality assessment of included studies in the revised manuscript. We have also mentioned that it was difficult to conduct the methodological quality assessment of included studies, for the reason that the information in the included studies was few (in the forth paragraph of the Discussion). Thank you very much for your suggestions.

7. Please add a table listing the detailed characteristics of each included study.

Response: We have added a table listing the detailed characteristics of each included study in the revision. Thank you very much for your suggestion.

8. It is mentioned that “Our study first reported the association of apoE gene polymorphism with TC level in patients with renal diseases, and showed that apoE

gene polymorphism was associated with the expression of TC in patients with renal diseases”, be careful when using the words like “first report”, I mean I may agree that the paper is the first meta-analysis to investigate the role of apoE in patients with renal disease, but may not the first study to report the association of apoE gene polymorphism with TC level, besides, the conclusion of this meta-analysis is not a specific one. I would like to thank the Editor of W-J-Meta for giving the great opportunity to review the manuscript.

Response: Thank you very much for your comments. We have revised them in the revised manuscript. Thanks again!

Addition: In the past weeks, all the authors checked the data in this manuscript carefully, and the data in this revised manuscript were right. Thank you very much!

Sincerely yours,

Tian-Biao Zhou

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