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Title: Prognostic impact of the Red Cell Distribution Width in Esophageal Cancer Patients: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Reviewer 1

Reviewer's code: 03093156

Reviewer's country: United States

Reviewer's comments to authors:

This manuscript is very interesting. In this study, the authors clarified the previous discrepant conclusions, we performed a meta-analysis to evaluate the prognostic value of red cell distribution width in esophageal cancer. About 6 articles fulfilled the selection criteria. Statistical analysis showed that RDW was not associated with the prognoses of esophageal cancer patients, irrespective of OS/CSS or DFS. Subgroup analysis indicated that elevated RDW was associated with worse OS/CSS for esophageal cancer patients when RDW > 13%, when the patient number ≤ 400 and when the study type was retrospective. This meta-analysis revealed that RDW cannot serve as an indicator of poor prognosis in patients with esophageal cancer. A minor editing is required.

Answers to reviewer 1: First, thank you for your kind and patient reply. Second, thank you for your hard work and taking time to carefully review our article and give the objective and impartial comments on our article. We have let professional polishing company (AMERICAN JOURNAL EXPERT, AJE company) further polish and revise the language of our article to make it meet the requirements of the magazine. We also revised and edited the articles to make the articles more concise, fluid and logical. Thank you very much again!

Reviewer 2

Reviewer's code: 03093174

Reviewer's country: United States

Reviewer's comments to authors:

Excellent study. Only some minor editing of the references are required.

Answers to reviewer 2:

Thank you for taking time to review our systematic review and meta-analysis. We also feel very pleased to your kind and great comments on our article. We have carefully re-checked and re-edited our references to meet your requirement and the qualification of the World Journal of Gastroenterology. We also accept your opinion about our article language and we have resorted to the special polishing company such as AJE company to carefully re-polish our manuscript. We wish our effort will make the language of our article more native and precise to meet the publication standards finally. Thank you

for your hard work again!

Reviewer 3

Reviewer's code: 03092961

Reviewer's country: Canada

Reviewer's comments to authors:

Very interesting systemic review about the prognostic value of red cell distribution width in esophageal cancer. The reviewer suggest to publish it in WJG.

Answers to reviewer 3: Thank you for your great comments to our systematic review and meta-analysis. It's our great honor to get your recognition and appreciation for our article. We also accept your opinions on the language level of our articles very sincerely and we will further modify and polish our article language to better meet the publishing requirements. Thank you very much again!

An important statement to the editor: Dear editor, we feel very sorry to trouble you again, for the contribution and support of professor Xiao-dong He, we have to rearrange our author order of our manuscript: Add Xiao-dong He as co-corresponding author of our manuscript! We have made the revision in our re-uploaded revised manuscript. Thank you very much again!