

January 19, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 15274-review.doc).

**Title:** Prognostic role of neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio in operable esophageal squamous cell carcinoma

**Author:** Hao Duan, Xu Zhang, Fei-Xiang Wang, Mu-Yan Cai, Guo-Wei Ma, Hong Yang, Jian-Hua Fu, Zi-Hui Tan, Yu-Qi Meng, Xia-Yu Fu, Qi-Long Ma, Peng Lin

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 15274

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) The suggestion is very pertinent and considerable. I have consulted with our biostatistician about this issue. We deemed that the CSS and RFS were estimated using the Kaplan-Meier method, and the differences were assessed by the log-rank test. Therefore, there is no more need for t-test. I hope you would take our opinion.

(2) The cutoff value of NLR was defined as 3.0 based on the receiver operating characteristic curve, which discriminated between survival and death; the area under the curve was 0.709, and the sensitivity and specificity were 66.1% and 69.1%, respectively, at the cutoff point. These data have been updated in the manuscript and highlighted in the unlocked document.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

Peng Lin, MD

Department of Thoracic Oncology,

Sun Yat-Sen University Cancer Center

651 Dongfeng East Road, Guangzhou

Guangdong, People's Republic of China.

**Telephone:** +86-13570979027

E-mail: [dr\\_penglin@sina.cn](mailto:dr_penglin@sina.cn)