

Informed Consent Statement

Title: Significance and prognostic value of increased serum direct bilirubin level for lymph node metastasis in Chinese rectal cancer patients

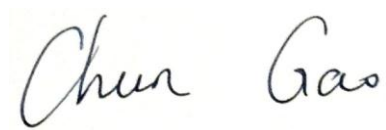
Manuscript Type: Case-Control Study

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We declare that informed written consent was obtained from all patients. All procedures performed in our study involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of The Human Research Ethics Committee of China-Japan Friendship hospital and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration.

Dr. Hong-Chuan Zhao, and Dr. Chun Gao

(**Chun Gao**, the member of the ESPS, an editorial board member of World Journal of Meta-Analysis, ID: 02451558)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chun Gao". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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